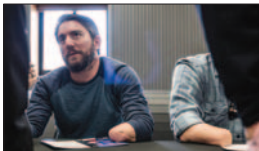


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Volume 76, No. 238 ©SS 2018

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2018

平成30年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Fighting for his future

Servicemembers with late-career health issues can face loss of pension

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — In the end, getting a pension came down to days, not years.

When Jerred Mitchell, a noncommissioned officer at Ramstein Air Base, began getting sick more than two years ago, he started banking his annual leave.

Had he not done that, the Air Force master sergeant would be facing a medical retirement without a pension, less than three months shy of his 20-year mark.

"If I didn't save my leave for the last 2½ years, I'd be in a different situation," Mitchell said.

SEE PENSION ON PAGE 4

"You don't know if you're going to get sick ... and get pushed out."

Jerred Mitchell



Jerred Mitchell, an Air Force master sergeant assigned to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, almost lost his pension due to being medically retired from the Air Force. He managed to just make it past 20 years after going through two medical evaluation boards and appealing to the secretary of the Air Force to be returned to duty, an appeal that he lost.

MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Top: Mitchell in 2014, before he gained weight from the side effects of drugs he was taking.

Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Japan Coast Guard faults both ships in Fitzgerald collision

By TYLER HLAVAC
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Japan Coast Guard has recommended negligent homicide charges for the USS Fitzgerald's officer of the deck and the ACX Crystal's second officer after a deadly collision last year.

■ Navy funding study on sleep deprivation's effects upon decision-making in group setting
Page 3

The guidance, announced Thursday, comes after the conclusion of an investigation that determined both officers were responsible for the June 17 incident that killed seven Fitzgerald sailors after the destroyer crashed into the cargo ship about 60 miles southwest of Yokosuka.

Charges of "Causing Death and Injury through Negligence in the

Pursuit of Social Activities and Endangering Traffic through Negligence in the Pursuit of Social Activities" were recommended because both officers were responsible for steering their ships at the time of the collision, Japan Coast Guard spokesman Yoshihito Nakamura told Stars and Stripes.

He said the coast guard would

not identify the ACX Crystal's second officer out of fairness, because the Navy has refused to name the Fitzgerald officer. Nakamura said the Fitzgerald crew is at fault because the Crystal was traveling on its right side in accordance with Preventing Collisions at Sea regulations. However, the ACX

SEE CHARGES ON PAGE 3

EUROPE

Exercise preps USAF for worst-case scenarios

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Against a backdrop of rolling hills and farmer's fields in this bucolic corner of southwest Germany, the U.S. Air Force is practicing for worst-case scenarios.

The base on Thursday night wrapped up a two-week exercise during which flying ramped up day and night. Loud sirens signaled for airmen to take cover under desks, among other training drills.

It was the largest exercise staged at Spangdahlem in more than 18 months, but base officials said it wasn't in response to any emerging or specific threat.

Rather, it's one of many ways the Air Force trains to be ready for a gambit of possible scenarios, from defending the base from attack to quickly launching aircraft to help a NATO ally in distress, officials said.

"Whether we're here in Korea or in Florida, we're always making sure we can defend the base from any adversary, any sort of aggression, and also support our allies," said Tech. Sgt. Kyle Beck, a member of the 52nd Fighter Wing inspector general's office exercise inspection team.

The exercise featured a lot of air power, combining F-16 fighter jets from two squadrons — Spangdahlem's 480th Fighter Squadron and those of the visiting 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. The 112th is an Ohio Air National Guard unit deployed to Europe from Toledo.

The unit brought with it more than 300 airmen and 12 F-16

Fighting Falcons, wrapping up a two-month deployment to Estonia with a few additional weeks of training at Spangdahlem, said Lt. Col. Greg Barasch, the unit's commander.

"This kind of brings it all together for us. We get to work with a lot of regional partners, NATO allies" in Estonia, Barasch said. "And then we get to come here and work with a U.S. unit and actually tie together some of our mission sets to maintain that readiness."

While in Estonia, the Ohio Air National Guard trained at Amari Air Base, flying sorties with partners in the region. The deployment was part of a theater security package under Operation Atlantic Resolve to act as a deterrent and reassure NATO allies nervous about Russian intentions.

The Ohio pilots, about 60 percent of whom are part-time airmen, were back in the air almost immediately when they arrived in Germany, figuring out quickly how to train with the Spangdahlem fliers, Barasch said.

Maintainers from both squadrons supported the busy flying schedule, gaining important lessons in the process, they said.

During the second week of the exercise, Capt. Jessica Watts, 480th Aircraft Maintenance Unit officer in-charge, said, "We are generating more than half the normal sorties that we would produce in a month."

"By putting so much stress on the organization to see how well we perform, as leaders it allows us to see, 'Hey, I have an issue here,'" she said. "You can't fix what you don't know is broken."

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Ohio National Guard F-16 fighter jets from the 112th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, deployed to Europe from Toledo, prepare for training last Tuesday at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.



Left: F-16 pilots with the 480th Fighter Squadron suit up before flying during the exercise. Right: Pilots from both units listen to a preflight briefing.



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kimmel.kristi@stripes.com

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MILITARY

Navy studies lack of sleep's effects on decision-making

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy is funding research into how sleep deprivation affects decision-making in a group setting, such as among a ship's bridge crew.

The Office of Naval Research Global is sponsoring ground-breaking research by professor Sean Drummond with the Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences in Australia.

Little research exists on sleep and to what extent lack of sleep affects a group while its members are collectively analyzing data and making decisions, the Navy said Thursday in a statement. The effects of sleep deprivation on individual performance have been extensively documented.

"From high op-tempo Navy special warfare missions, to Sailors on extended watch on ships, to long-duration flights or Marines in theater, the issue of sleep loss is critical to the performance and well-being of our warfighters," Capt. Kevin Quarnder, ONR Global commander, said in the statement. "Professor

Drummond's research will play a key role in understanding and enhancing their endurance and combat effectiveness."

The Navy has more deeply scrutinized the ill effects of sleep deprivation in the wake of two separate deadly collisions by the guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain last summer in which 17 sailors died.

A Navy comprehensive review issued in October assigned some of the blame for the collisions to crew fatigue due to poor sleep patterns.

Lack of sleep has been found to profoundly affect work performance, which can decline as much as 30 percent after the first sleep-deprived night and up to 60 percent after the second consecutive night, the Navy review said.

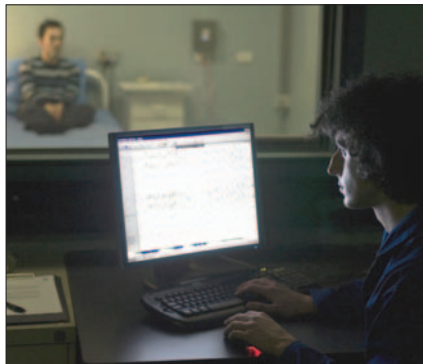
Participants in Drummond's study will be monitored during waking hours by wearing eye-tracking devices that measure attention as they perform tasks, such as focusing their gaze on moving images on a computer screen while at the same time ignoring distractions, the Navy

said.

Participants will also wear EEG, or electroencephalogram, headsets that measure brain activity from the cerebral cortex, the control center of memory, attention and perception, the Navy said.

"Professor Drummond's team is taking a systematic approach to studying fatigue and circadian rhythm disruption, and how it impacts decision-making in complex tasks," Dr. Jason Wong, ONR Global's science director, said in the statement. "This research will provide insight that can be applied by our Sailors and Marines, who often have to work long hours in less-than-optimal sleep environments, and we expect it will improve their cognitive and physical health."

The participants will be roused without proper sleep toward the end of the study regimen and then perform group exercises, during which their decision-making ability and processes are monitored. They are tasked with reaching consensus after reviewing various discrete bits of information and then outlining the reasoning process supporting



Courtesy of Monash Institute of Cognitive and Clinical Neurosciences

The effects of sleep deprivation on decision-making in a group setting are being studied in a research project funded by the Navy.

their decisions.

"Such experiments will allow us to compare decision-making abilities after a well-rested state and after sleep disruption and circadian misalignment," Drummond said in the Navy statement. "This is important because, during military engagements, you must make fast decisions — deploying resources, reacting to the enemy — at all hours of the day, while processing information from many sources."

Drummond worked as a staff

psychologist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System from 2005 to 2014 and has been at the Monash School of Psychological Sciences as a professor of clinical neuroscience since December 2014, according to his faculty biography.

His clinical research has focused on the treatment of insomnia, and other areas of research have examined the interaction of sleep, sleep disruption and psychiatric symptoms.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson

Charges: Officer involved in Fitzgerald crash may avoid civilian charges

FROM FRONT PAGE

Crystal is also blame because it failed to take any action to avoid the incident, he added.

U.S. Forces Japan told Stars and Stripes in a statement Thursday that it is aware of Japan's intent to pursue legal action.

"The sailors involved in the collision were performing their official duties at the time," the statement said. "Pursuant to the Status of Forces Agreement between the U.S. and Japan, the U.S. has the primary right to exercise jurisdiction for offenses arising out of any act or omission done in the performance of official duties."

Japanese media are speculating that

prosecutors will drop the case against the Fitzgerald sailor because of that caveat.

A Navy report released last year said the Fitzgerald's officer of the deck "exhibited poor seamanship by failing to maneuver as required, failing to sound the danger signal and failing to attempt to contact (the ACX Crystal) on Bridge to Bridge radio."

The unnamed sailor also "did not call the commanding officer as appropriate and prescribed by Navy procedures to allow him to exercise more senior oversight and judgment of the situation," the report said.

The officer of the deck and bridge team also "failed to comply with the International Rules of the Nautical Road," the report said, adding that the destroyer was travel-

ing at an unsafe speed and failed to maneuver early, notify other ships of danger and take proper actions.

The Navy announced in January that Cmdr. Bryce Benson — who helmed the Fitzgerald during the incident and was injured in the crash — had been charged with dereliction of duty, hazarding a vessel and negligent homicide. Two unnamed lieutenants and one lieutenant junior grade from the ship face similar charges.

Article 32 hearings for sailors involved in both the Fitzgerald incident and a later collision that killed 10 USS John S. McCain sailors near Singapore were scheduled to begin earlier this month. However,

those have been postponed to an unspecified date after defense attorneys asked for more time.

Cmdr. Alfredo Sanchez, former commander of the McCain, faces the same charges as Benson. Both leaders were relieved of their duties last year.

A chief petty officer from the McCain is facing one charge of dereliction of duty. The executive officers of both ships and several sailors from the Fitzgerald were also relieved of their duties due to "poor seamanship and flawed teamwork," a Navy statement said.

havac.tyler@stripes.com
kusumoto.hana@stripes.com

Navy releases names of pilots killed in Florida Super Hornet crash

By KAT BOUZA
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has identified the two pilots killed when their F/A-18F Super Hornet crashed into the sea near Key West, Fla., on Wednesday afternoon.

Lt. Cmdr. James Brice Johnson and Lt. Caleb Nathaniel King — both assigned to the "Blacklions" of Strike Fighter Squadron 213 at Naval Air Station Oceana — died after the aircraft went down on final approach to Naval Air Station Key West about 4:30 p.m. The squadron was conducting training in the area at the time of the crash.

"The entire Blacklion Family

is grieving the loss of two great Americans," Cmdr. Kevin Robb, the unit's commander, said in a Navy statement. "Lt. Cmdr. Johnson and Lt. King were phenomenal young men, exceptional naval aviators, and were living models of what honor, courage and commitment really mean."

Johnson was piloting the Super Hornet at the time of the incident, while King was serving as weapons systems operator, the Navy said. Both men had ejected from the aircraft.

The Super Hornet appeared to suffer from a mechanical failure, witnesses said.

"It looked like it was going to land on the runway, and then

the whole plane went sideways," local resident Barbie Wilson told The Associated Press. "And then I saw fire, and it dropped out of the sky."

The wreckage remains in the water as the Navy's Mishap Investigation Board prepares to launch a probe into the cause of the crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and squadron mates of these two aviators," Rear Adm. Roy Kelley, commander of Naval Air Force Atlantic, said in a statement. "A full investigation will be conducted to discover the cause of this mishap."

bouza.kat@stripes.com



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Lt. Cmdr. James Brice Johnson, left, and Lt. Caleb Nathaniel King were killed when their F/A-18F Super Hornet crashed Wednesday.

MILITARY



Photos courtesy of Jerred Mitchell

Above: Master Sgt. Jerred Mitchell, then with the 35th Communications Squadron at Misawa Air Base, Japan, stands next to one of the scary clowns at the squadron's Haunted Dungeon in 2007. Right: Mitchell is pictured during a deployment to Iraq in 2008



Pension: Ramstein NCO's symptoms baffled doctors

FROM FRONT PAGE

On Feb. 22, a board acting on behalf of the secretary of the Air Force denied his appeal to return to duty, directing that he be medically retired due to a rare disorder that can cause recurring blood clots.

Mitchell stood to lose his pension, an annual lifetime retirement benefit that military personnel qualify for after serving 20 years on active duty. For Mitchell, that came to \$19,459 a year after taxes, he said.

Mitchell's case highlights the vulnerability of servicemembers struggling with health issues in the twilight of their careers.

As servicemembers age and years of service take a heavy toll on their bodies, Pentagon regulations offer no protection or sanctuary from separation on medical grounds, regardless of how near to retirement they might be. That means a pension regarding a long, respectable career can vanish if a servicemember becomes unexpectedly ill or develops a physically debilitating condition before reaching 20 years.

Mitchell fretted for months while the Air Force weighed his future. In September, he filed an appeal to the secretary of the Air Force asking that he be returned to duty after two Air Force physical evaluation boards ruled last year that he should be medically retired.

He was told he might hear back from the secretary's office within one to four months. It took more than six months.

Mitchell finally learned last month that his appeal was denied. But after a few more anxious days, he found out he'll get past the 20-year mark.

Months of fighting for his pension and waiting for answers paid off, the Air Force's slow pace of administrative action worked to Mitchell's advantage.

The days of leave Mitchell saved, plus extra time granted to him for outprocessing and house hunting by his command put him over the hump.

After taking into account Mitchell's leave and other time he's due, the Air Force Personnel Center approved his medical retirement for Aug. 31, three months past his 20-year mark of May 13.

A sliver of compassion

Though uncommon, getting discharged between 19 and 20 years on medical grounds does happen.

During the past five years, 69 active-

duty airmen and 34 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members were medically discharged with 19 years of service, officials said.

Most received a medical retirement, while a few were discharged with severance pay only. In both sets of circumstances, the airmen would not receive a separate military pension.

Military defense attorney David Sheldon, of Washington, has worked a few similar cases, he said, including a current one representing an airman with 18½ years of service. The Air Force is trying to separate him for disability at 20 percent despite the airman having support from his command for retention, Sheldon said.

Sheldon expects cases like this to rise, given the Pentagon's new policy announced last month intended to force out most servicemembers who are unable to deploy within 12 months.

Given the tougher retention standards, Mitchell knew his chances of a favorable decision were slim. But he was hoping for a sliver of compassion from the Strategic Air Force folks. He had support from his commander to stay in and, realistically, he had too little time of obligated service remaining to deploy.

Mitchell was willing to hang up his uniform this spring. He told the Air Force, "I just want to stay in till my 20-year mark and then I'll retire. And they said, 'No.'"

Sanctuary for some

U.S. Code 1176 protects servicemembers nearing 20 years of service — and retirement eligibility — from being discharged or denied re-enlistment without just cause.

"Generally, what it addresses, once you're over 18 years, local commanders" can't issue an administrative discharge for lower-level misconduct, said Eric Mayer, an attorney in Kansas City, Kan., who specializes in military law. "You can still do a knuckleheaded thing and get kicked out. It just has to go to a much higher level of approval."

But the federal sanctuary law doesn't extend to medical cases, officials said.

Servicemembers "pending an approved or mandatory retirement are presumed fit for duty and must meet a higher standard to be found unfit for continued service," said Michael Dickerson, Air Force Per-

sonnel Center spokesman. "However, so-called sanctuary provisions do not apply for servicemembers with 18 to 20 years of service if found unfit for continued service due to medical disability."

The nuance in the law isn't widely understood, Mitchell discovered. When he reached out to fellow airmen and veterans for advice, he kept hearing: "Oh, you're good, you're in sanctuary. Nope, you don't have to worry about nothing."

Finally, a diagnosis

Mitchell always intended to stay in the Air Force beyond 20 years.

Now 40, Mitchell's career has stretched past 23 years, including his Reserve and Guard duty. He joined the Army when he was 17 and spent three years as a field artilleryman. He then did brief stints in the Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air Force National Guard and Air Force Reserves. He enlisted in the Air Force in 2001, working in project and computer systems planning and implementation until 2009, when his career field merged into cable and antenna systems craftsman. Along the way, he deployed four times, including twice to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mitchell's career was humming along until late 2016, when his left leg began to swell. Soon afterward, tests revealed deep vein thrombosis. The blood clots in his leg moved to his lungs, while the clots in his leg kept worsening, even after Mitchell went on blood thinners.

Doctors were baffled.

By January 2017, Mitchell finally received a diagnosis: antiphospholipid syndrome, a rare autoimmune system disorder that causes an increased risk of blood clots. There's currently no cure.

Around the same time, Mitchell began experiencing back pain. For years, he had minor aches in his back and legs, which intensified after his blood disorder developed.

"I can't sit or stand too long," he said. "I can't stand in formation anymore."

The blood clots in Mitchell's lungs automatically triggered a medical board review, he said.

The deployment availability working group at Ramstein was first to review his medical condition, recommending that he be returned to duty, Mitchell said.

But the Air Force Personnel Center determines whether a member should be returned to duty — sometimes with an assignment limitation code — or be put through a full medical evaluation board review, according to the Air Force. The AFPC opted for the board review in Mitchell's case.

That triggered an informal physical evaluation board and, later, a formal physical evaluation board review at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

For his lower back pain and blood disorder, the boards assigned him a disability rating of 40 percent and recommended permanent retirement.

Mitchell appealed the ruling to the Secretary of the Air Force in mid-September.

Mitchell's medical records describe his duty and mobility restrictions. He can't run and he can't lift more than 40 pounds. His health care provider recommended he be allowed to work half-days as the mission allows and wear comfortable shoes.

The disorder has taxed Mitchell's body.

This past year, he was up to two dozen medications a day to control his symptoms, and he has gained 60 pounds in two years from the drugs' side effects.

Mitchell also had letters of support from airmen and civilians with whom he's worked, including his current commander, Lt. Col. Steven Brummitt.

In his letter to the board, Brummitt said Mitchell was one of his most productive communication planners, someone he leaned on for his expertise, leadership and problem solving.

"Bottom line: MSgt Mitchell is adding value to my organization despite his medical condition," Brummitt wrote. "He is in the perfect 'desk' job to support his physical limitations. ..."

'Incompatible'

The physical evaluation board findings zeroed in on Mitchell's autoimmune disorder, stating the condition posed "obvious medical risk" to Mitchell's health and imposed "unreasonable requirements" on the military "to maintain or protect" him.

His back pain, meanwhile, rendered him unable to deploy, meet physical fitness requirements and perform common military tasks, the boards' members ruled.

SEE PENSION ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

'It's a primal thing'

US soldiers in Germany celebrate with well-placed punches on St. Patrick's Day

By MARTIN EGNASH

Stars and stripes

VILSECK, Germany — Soldiers in Germany didn't just get pinched for not wearing green this Saint Patrick's Day. Some of them duked it out in the ring to celebrate on Saturday.

The U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria St. Patrick's Day Boxing Invitational included 21 bouts between soldiers from all over Germany fighting for their bases.

"A lot of great boxers got their start in the Army, fighting at events just like this," said garrison Sgt. Maj. Michael Sutterfield, who cited several Olympic boxers who started boxing in the Army. "My own grandfather used to box in the Army. This is a proud tradition."

Home team Vilseck won the day, scoring the most overall points in the slugfest. Stuttgart trailed close behind, winning several fights as well, followed by underdog Grafenwoehr. The night was full of great bouts.

One highlight was when Vilseck's Jose McSherry dropped his opponent, fellow Vilseck fighter Colby Auman, with a mean right hook. "I owe the win to knocking him down in the second round," McSherry said. "I did what I could, and I'm glad I could entertain everyone here." Fighting comes naturally to him and the rest of the soldiers, he said. "It's a primal thing."

Another great bout was when Grafenwoehr's Robert Hasslocher knocked his opponent, Stuttgart's Mattias Sanchez, down with a solid uppercut, which just put him over the edge for a win in a very close fight.

"It was a good fight against a great opponent," Hasslocher said. "It's a soldier's duty to fight."

egnash.martin@stripes.com

Twitter: @Marty_Stripes



MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Calvin Collins, right, fighting out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, lands a jab on Vilseck's Jonathon Martinez during the U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria St. Patrick's Day Boxing Invitational on Saturday in Vilseck, Germany.

Pension: Investing in the DOD retirement system recommended

FROM PAGE 4

Dickerson said the Air Force could not comment on a specific case due to privacy concerns. But he said that fitness for continued military duty is based on numerous factors, including, but not limited to years of service, rank, career field, the effect of the medical condition on duties, fitness limitations, deployment and assignment requirements, treatment history and prognosis.

Mitchell asked the SAF Personnel Council — charged with reviewing and acting on military personnel matters requiring secretarial-level review — to return him to duty.

The council denied his request, underscoring Mitchell's blood disorder and "high utilization of medical resources." It noted that Mitchell had 30 medical visits in November and 10 medical visits in December, requiring a range of medical specialties, including hematology, rheumatology, pulmonology, podiatry and cardiology.

"The Board determined that the member's extensive requirements for medical specialty follow-up were incompatible with worldwide service and therefore unfitting," the council wrote in its decision letter.

There's no mention of Mitch-

ell's looming retirement date.

Mission comes first

An Air Force doctor who spoke to Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to speak about the physical evaluation board process said the decision to retain or medically discharge an airman is not up to his or her doctor. The doctor presents information about the servicemember's medical condition, the prognosis and treatment.

"The gentlemanly thing to do would be to let him get to 20," said the doctor, who was familiar with Mitchell's case. But, "ultimately, the mission comes first."

From 2013 to 2017, four active-duty members and one Reserve member with 19 years of active service were medically discharged with severance pay as opposed to medically retired, Dickerson said.

Disability severance is a one-time lump sum payment, equal to two months' of basic pay for each year of service, according to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

In the same time period, 65 active-duty members and 33 Reserve or Guard members were medically retired with 19 years

of service. That represents 1 percent of medically retired cases during that time frame, Dickerson said.

Medical retirement entitles servicemembers to lifetime medical coverage and a monthly payment based on one's disability rating and years of active service. Depending on the disability rating, military medical retirement pay can be offset by the amount of disability compensation a member receives from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In the Marine Corps, four Marines in the past five years were medically discharged after serving between 19 and 20 years, officials said. The Army and Navy did not provide numbers.

A more secure future

Reaching 20 years was huge for Mitchell.

As a medical retiree with less than 20 years, he would not have been eligible to collect VA and Department of Defense disability pay, which are paid from two different buckets of money. He would have taken the higher of the two, which would have been \$3,270 a month from the VA for a 100 percent disability rating. The VA disability rating is higher because it accounts for all of

Mitchell's ailments, not just those affecting his ability to do his military job. It is not taxable by the federal government.

With 20 years under his belt, Mitchell will still receive VA disability pay, plus a pension.

It's a difference of about \$20,000 a year after taxes.

The pension is peace of mind, a safety net for his family if his condition continues to deteriorate and he's unable to work, Mitchell said. The VA can always downgrade his disability rating and reduce his VA disability pay, he said.

Mitchell, his wife, Joanna, and his two school-age kids plan to move about an hour outside of Dayton, Ohio, near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

His message to other servicemembers: Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Consider investing in the Pentagon's new blended retirement system, similar to a civilian 401(k) plan. It allows you to leave the military with an established retirement account even if you do not retire.

"You don't know if you're going to get sick ... and get pushed out," Mitchell said.

suan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesstown

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MILITARY

Wiesbaden club for women holds annual bazaar

By DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Wiesbaden German-American Women's Club hosted its 69th annual spring charity bazaar on Saturday at Wiesbaden's Kurhaus colonnade — an iconic structure dating back to the city's heyday as a holiday destination for Europe's elite.

The bazaar is the club's most important charity event of the year, said American club President Cindee Huwe, whose husband works in the area for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

'This is absolutely wunderbar.'

Col. Todd Fish
commander, U.S.
Army Garrison
Wiesbaden

"Charity work for our club has always been very important, and a feeling of wanting to give back to the community, to help people, and this is our largest fundraiser," Huwe said. "In the last 70 years, we've raised millions of dollars for charity."

Despite frigid weather, a crowd waited for the doors to open at 10 a.m.

Huwe said the bazaar's cafeteria, where club members were selling pastries, breads and coffee, was the biggest earner, but there was also a champagne bar, a raffle and several flea market stalls selling books, clothing, souvenirs, glassware and other items.

Col. Todd Fish, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden, said he was impressed with the work of the women's club, which he said was an important part of bringing the garrison and the local community together.

"This is absolutely wunderbar," Fish told volunteers and visitors just before the event opened. "What a fantastic organization, a great club, and all the work that you do, that you put back into the community. I'm speechless. It helps both our communities grow."

Gathering the items for sale was a monthlong process, Huwe said. The group has worked closely with the local Salvation Army charity since January to collect the clothing, books and other goods.

stoutamire.dan@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY DAN STOUTAMIRE/Stars and Stripes

Visitors to the 69th annual Wiesbaden German-American Women's Club spring charity bazaar shop for clothes at the Kurhaus in Wiesbaden on Saturday.



People browse through books on sale at the event, which has been held every spring since the 1940s to raise money for local charities.

Third-grader with knife at Va. school on Army installation detained; no injuries

By JENNIFER SVAN
AND CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

A third-grade student brought a pocketknife to Fort Belvoir Elementary School in Virginia on Thursday and may have threatened other students with it, according to parents critical of the school's response and to base officials.

No injuries were reported, but the student "allegedly indicated an intent to use the pocketknife, possibly to harm self and others," according to a statement from the Fort Belvoir garrison commander posted on its Facebook site Thursday night.

Children of military personnel attend the school on Fort Belvoir but it is not part of the Department of Defense Education Activity, the U.S. military's school system.

The incident prompted concern from some parents, who criticized the school for failing to notify them sooner and not being forthcoming about the seriousness of the episode.

According to posts on the Face-

book page, a parent shared an alert from school officials about 3:30 p.m. Thursday. Police were called to the school shortly before 1 p.m., according to a law enforcement spokeswoman.

"This afternoon, one of our students took out a pocketknife and showed it to classmates," read the shared message from Fort Belvoir Elementary School. "Staff members removed it from the student, and the appropriate authorities were contacted. Our students were not in danger, but we wanted to make you aware of this incident."

People identifying themselves as parents of children at the school said on Facebook that they were alarmed to hear details from their kids when they picked them up that didn't match what the school initially reported.

"This was definitely a scary moment, and having to read about it on [Facebook] as well as children telling us details is unacceptable," one commenter said.

The garrison statement said the parental notification came from Fort Belvoir Public Schools.

The Fort Belvoir Police Depart-

ment, Fairfax County Police Department and emergency services responded to the incident, according to the garrison statement. Upon arrival, the student was located and the knife was confiscated and secured, the statement said. The student was removed from the premises.

The Fairfax police said Friday that they responded to the school at 12:57 p.m. after a report of a child with a knife. There were no reports of injuries.

Fairfax County referred additional questions to the Fort Belvoir Police Department, which is the lead police agency on the case. A spokeswoman for Fort Belvoir police referred all comments to the school district, saying they couldn't share details because it was a school matter. A call requesting comment from the Fairfax Public School System wasn't immediately returned.

The incident remains under investigation.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
grisaes.claudia@stripes.com
Twitter: @cgrisaes

Location of future Desert Storm War Memorial unclear

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The location of the future Desert Storm War Memorial remains unclear after one of the commissions tasked with choosing the site voted against organizers' top choice Thursday.

The U.S. Commission on Fine Arts voted 5-1 to build the memorial at a waterfront location on the historic Belvedere, a portion of land at the western end of Constitution Avenue in northwest Washington. It noted the site's visual connection to Arlington National Cemetery, which is across the Potomac River.

"That was not the one we were hoping for," said Scott Stump, president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association.

Stump and other memorial organizers met with the Commission on Fine Arts three times in the past year to present their case for a memorial location on the National Mall near 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue.

President Donald Trump signed a resolution in March 2017 approving a Desert Storm and Desert Shield memorial on federal land in Washington. The association is responsible for all aspects of the memorial, including fundraising, design and construction. The memorial is expected to be completed by 2021 and to cost about \$25 million.

At a hearing in October, historians, lawmakers and retired four-star Army Gen. Ronald Griffith pleaded with commissioners, arguing the new memorial deserved a close connection to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall.

"The leaders who served in Desert Storm, we were all low-ranking to mid-grade officers during the Vietnam War, and we drew some lessons," Griffith said in October. "I would love to be able to have that monument somewhere that I could walk from where we left our buddies in Vietnam to the memorial that says, 'Here is where we ended up. This is where we left it.'"

Though the Commission on Fine Arts voted against that idea Thursday, the National Capital Planning Commission also has a say. Both commissions must approve the memorial's location and design.

The National Capital Planning Commission is expected to take up the issue April 5 at its next meeting. In December, the NCPCE said the waterfront site — selected by the Commission on Fine Arts — is challenging to access and "has limited opportunity for contemplative space." However, like

'It's a little bit frustrating. However, I'm confident that the process will work itself through and that it's going to come out in our favor.'

Scott Stump
president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association

the Commission on Fine Arts, the NCPCE highlighted its connection to Arlington National Cemetery.

Thomas Luebke, secretary of the Commission on Fine Arts, said if the commissions disagree about the site, "it will have to be worked out" with memorial organizers and stakeholders.

Stump said Thursday that he and other organizers were considering other options, which include consulting with the National Park Service.

Stump has been involved in the effort to build the National Desert Storm Memorial for eight years, and narrowing down potential sites has taken more than two years. The group of organizers started with 100 locations.

"It's not a done deal at this point," Stump said. "There's a lot of people wanting to know what's happening. It's a little bit frustrating. However, I'm confident that the process will work itself through and that it's going to come out in our favor."

Organizers were at least pleased, that the commission didn't vote for their least favorite option — a site at Walt Whitman Park, Stump said.

A final design for the memorial is also uncertain.

Arguing against the waterfront site selected by the Commission on Fine Arts, Stump said there would be a symbolic disconnect between the view of the Potomac River and what troops experienced in the desert of Saudi Arabia.

Organizers want the memorial to include elements that would remind visitors of the Kuwaiti desert. A proposed design includes a curved limestone wall enveloping an inner memorial space.

The National Park Service is asking for public input on what the memorial should look like. Through April 13, anyone can offer their opinions on the design by going to parkplanning.nps.gov. A public meeting to discuss the design is set for March 27.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

MILITARY

Graveside salute offered to 'guardian angel'

Last living Medal of Honor recipient from Iwo Jima honors Marine who covered him

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

HONOLULU — Seventy-three years ago on the island of Iwo Jima, Hershel "Woody" Williams randomly chose several fellow Marines to give him rifle cover as he made a one-man charge with his flamethrower against a network of Japanese pillboxes.

He spent four hours unleashing flames into the pillboxes that had stymied advance for days, racing back to the Marine Corps lines to refuel the flamethrower and then running again into battle — all while covered by only four riflemen.

Williams was ultimately awarded the Medal of Honor on Feb. 23, 1945, for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty," as the official citation describes it. He "daringly went forward alone to attempt the reduction of devastating machine-gun fire," coming out of reinforced concrete pillboxes, on which bazooka and mortar rounds had no effect.

At one point, Williams mounted a pillbox, stuck the flamethrower's nozzle through an air vent and killed the enemy within it.

Two of the Marines covering Williams died that day, but he never knew their names and never knew where their remains rested until just a few months ago.

On Saturday, Williams, with the Medal of Honor hanging around his neck, stood over the Hawaii grave of Charles G. Fischer, one of those "guardian angels" who helped him survive the battle and is buried in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, nicknamed the Punchbowl.

He saluted the Marine, who died a private first class that day, and then slowly bent down and placed a purple lei upon his headstone.

"I have always said I'm just the caretaker of it," Williams said later of the Medal of Honor. "It belongs to them. They sacrificed for it. I didn't."

Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded to men who fought on Iwo Jima; Williams is the last recipient still alive.

Williams was in Hawaii to dedicate a



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Hershel "Woody" Williams salutes Saturday before the gravesite of Charles G. Fischer, a Marine Corps rifleman who died in Iwo Jima while providing covering fire for Williams. Williams learned of Fischer's identity and location only months ago.

Gold Star Families Memorial Monument at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery in Kaneohe. The monument was initiated by Williams through the organization he founded, the Hershel Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation. This is the foundation's 33rd monument to be dedicated; they recognize the sacrifices made by families who have lost loved ones in the service of their country.

After the Saturday morning dedication, Williams, 94, visited the Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu, where the remains of hundreds of servicemen who died during World War II are interred.

Patrick O'Leary, a foundation board member whom Williams has dubbed his "research guru," sleuthed the identity of Fischer by poring through hundreds of military documents concerning the Iwo Jima campaign waged in February and March 1945. Using five witness statements that had been given in the course of recommending Williams for the Medal of Honor,

O'Leary was able to reliably pinpoint the company the riflemen were in and found that only a corporal and a private first class had been killed that day.

"It just has to be them," O'Leary said. "Nothing else fits."

Last fall he tracked down Fischer's gravesite in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. The other Marine is buried in Long Island, N.Y.

Williams also visited for the first time the grave of Vernon Waters, a fellow Marine and close friend who died on Iwo Jima.

They had become very close in the lead-up to the Iwo Jima campaign, fostering a feeling of devotion in Williams so strong that he ultimately risked court-martial.

While on the island of Guam, Waters and Williams had made a pact that should either of them be killed, the other would return their rings to family members.

Williams' girlfriend had given him a ring with a "wee, tiny little ruby" in it before he left for the Marine Corps.

"Wasn't as big as a pea but wasn't as little as a pinhead," he said. "It was just plain metal and could turn your finger green because it was just metal. She gave me that ring and said, 'Every time you look at that, you think of me.'"

"Her name was Ruby," he said. "Psychologically, it worked."

Waters' father had given him a ring that he wore on his index finger because his ring and middle fingers were congenitally fused, Williams said.

The two Marines shook hands and agreed to the mutual return.

Waters was killed by mortar fire on Iwo Jima, and Williams found his body "stretched out on the ground," he said.

"And there's that ring," he said. "I have to get that ring."

"We'd been told over and over by the Marine Corps leaders, you never ever take anything off a dead Marine's body. That's a court-martial offense. You do not do that."

But there was that bond, he said, and so he worked the ring off his friend's battle-stained hands, which left an obvious white circle where the Pacific sun had not shined for two years.

"I knew someone was going to see that, so I got some dirt and rubbed on it and that didn't do much, so I spit in my hand and made some mud and covered it all back up," he said. "I stuck the ring in my pocket."

In late 1945, he was back in the States without a job, no car, very little money and a new wife: Ruby. But getting that ring to Waters' parents in Montana was "the first thing on my list," he said, and with a borrowed car rolling on bad tires, the newlyweds made the car trip to Montana.

"It was quite emotional," he said of handing over the ring. "I've said many times, it was almost like delivering the most precious thing in the world. He was still buried on Iwo Jima. They had no information as to what was going to happen, whether they were going to leave him there."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattOlson

US soldier's story links immigration, war

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Alessandro Sabbadini was dishonorably discharged, his head shaved for extra humiliation, and jettisoned from the Italian army for being Jewish.

It was 1939. The year before, Italy had passed its racial law that stripped Jews of their citizenship, property, livelihoods and, ultimately, their lives.

Sabbadini, using family connections and a knowledge of how to get around restrictive immigration laws, made his way to New York City.

It was only a matter of time until the U.S. would enter the war. Sabbadini planned to help the U.S. Army fight it.

He enlisted and spent most of the war doing just that, fighting in some of the Italian campaign's fiercest battles. He spent four months fighting against the German artillery bombardment at Anzio, on the beach where his family had owned a summer house and

where 7,000 British and American troops were killed in action.

Sabbadini's son, Roger, a California physiologist who wrote a book about his father and the Allies' Italian campaign, gave a talk Thursday at Caserma Ederle, recounting the story.

"It connects Italy, World War II and the U.S. — our ideals," U.S. Army Africa Sgt. Maj. Gonzalo Gonzalez said in his introduction.

"It's an intriguing story and fascinating bond and the reason why we are still here on Italian soil."

The U.S. Army rejected Sabbadini three times as an "enemy alien," his son said, until officials decided that European refugees with language skills and cultural knowledge could be an intelligence asset. Sabbadini's job was to accompany front-line troops in Italy to seize, translate and photograph enemy command posts.

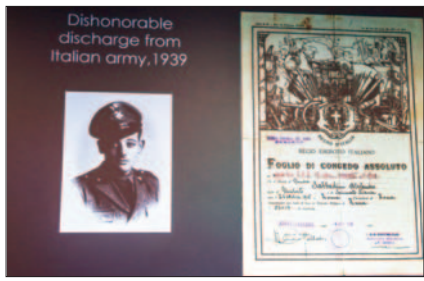
"Here's a guy fighting Italians, fighting Germany, and he's not a citizen," Roger Sabbadini said.

That changed after 1942, when the Immigration and Naturalization Service began to naturalize servicemen.

Henry B. Hazard, INS director of research and educational services, performed more overseas naturalizations during the war than any other official. Hazard visited six continents to naturalize 6,574 servicemen between 1943 and 1945. Sabbadini was one of them, in a battlefield ceremony.

Sabbadini eventually got to Rome and found that his family had escaped the fascists and the Nazis, either to other countries or by hiding in the countryside with the help of friends.

"Many Jews were able to find shelter with Italians," according to Yad Vashem, of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center. "The fact that the Allies were already on Italian soil and that their victory became a certainty probably played an important role in the willingness to help the persecuted. On the other hand, there were also many cases of denun-



MARK TURNER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Alessandro Sabbadini, who was discharged from the Italian army in 1939 for being Jewish, fled to America, joined the U.S. Army and worked in intelligence on the front lines in Italy during World War II.

ciations resulting in arrests."

Of 44,500 Italian Jews, 7,680 perished during the Holocaust.

Sabbadini returned to the U.S. after the war, married and started a business. His story is really about immigrants, Roger Sabbadini said.

"Here's an immigrant who did his job, he served in the military, he shed blood for his country. It's the story of an immigrant doing well."

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com
Twitter: @montgomerynancy

MILITARY

Paralympians meet with US soldiers at South Korea base

By MARCUS FICHTL
Stars and Stripes

CAMP CASEY, South Korea — Fresh off the slopes, two-time Paralympic medalist Noah Elliott may have more photos of soldiers than the soldiers have of him after a visit to the Army's northern artillery outpost in South Korea on Saturday.

The snowboarder let the soldiers try on his gold and bronze medals during a meet and greet with about 200 soldiers at Camp Casey. He called Saturday's moments the "icing on the cake."

"It's a priceless opportunity to be able to come out here and support those who support us," Elliott told Stars and Stripes. "It's truly an honor to meet those guys who made it possible."

Elliott won the gold in the banked slalom and the bronze in the snowboard cross in the 2018 Paralympics, which ended Sunday in the South Korean town of Pyeongchang.

Second Lt. Hannah Jones, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, was fresh off a 9-mile ruck march in commemoration of the 1942 Bataan Death March when she learned Paralympians were waiting for them at the finish line.

She placed second during the ruck march and said it was "sur-real" when she had a chance to put the vaunted gold around her neck.

Jones, 24, said Elliott told her receiving the medal wasn't the most special part.

"It was when he stood up and they played the national anthem and raised the United States flag,"

'It's a priceless opportunity to be able to come out here and support those who support us.'

Noah Elliott
Paralympic medalist

said Jones, of Mooresville, Ind.

Three other Paralympians joined Elliott at the meet and greet. They were fellow snowboarders Mike Spivey, Jimmy Sides and Arlene Cohen. Sides and Spivey are former Marines.

Sides, who lost part of his right arm while attempting to deactivate a roadside bomb in Afghanistan in 2010, said it didn't bother him that North Koreans, Iranians or anyone else participated in the Paralympics.

"Everyone was there representing their country and the sport that they love to do. That was the sole reason for being here," he said.

The athletes then boarded a bus and headed to Camp Bonifas to visit the soldiers standing guard at the truce village of Panmunjom, which straddles the heavily fortified border between North and South Korea.

"I've just heard stories (about Panmunjom). I'm superexcited to go out there and check it out for myself and hear what the guys have to share," Elliott said.

ficthl.marcus@stripes.com
Twitter: @marcusficthl



PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHTL/Stars and Stripes

Above: Paralympian Noah Elliott checks out a soldier's hammer at Camp Casey, South Korea, on Saturday. Below: Second Lt. Hannah Jones, left, 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment, and Sara Cratsenburg pose with Elliott's gold and bronze medals as Paralympian Jimmy Sides takes their photo.



VA delays distribution of veteran ID cards

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Thousands of veterans who started applying for new identification cards through the Department of Veterans Affairs in November won't see them until April, according to the agency.

VA spokesman Curt Cashour said in January the cards were supposed to be mailed in early March. But on Friday, he said the agency is working with a vendor to approve samples of the new cards before printing.

The distribution has been pushed back to April.

"[W]e expect to complete this process soon so approved cards can be printed and mailed," Cashour wrote in an emailed statement.

It's another in a series of delays in distributing the new, free cards. The IDs are intended to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information. The new IDs do not replace VA medical cards or defense retiree cards, nor do they qualify as official government-issued identification.

High demand for the cards crashed a VA webpage in December, when some veterans were met with error messages or a webpage that failed to load. The VA temporarily stopped the online application process and asked veterans seeking new ID cards to leave their email addresses, stating they'd be notified when they could apply.

The VA began taking online applications again at the end of January. As of Jan. 29, the VA was processing 14,609 applications for the cards. By last Tuesday, that had grown to 64,759 veterans seeking the new IDs, Cashour said.

Any veteran who served in the armed forces, including the reserves, and has an honorable or general discharge can request the ID. Veterans can apply at the vets.gov website and will be asked to create an online account.

Veterans who don't want to wait for a printed ID can immediately download an image of their card directly from the VA website to either print or use on their mobile phones. In 2015, Congress ordered the VA to create the cards to make it easier for veterans to receive certain benefits such as discounts at stores and restaurants.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

'Hawks', Hornets arrive at Iwakuni for deployment

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Members of Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 and their F/A-18D Hornets landed at Iwakuni on Thursday for a six-month deployment.

Also known as the "Hawks," the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C.-based unit replaces a sister squadron, VMFA-251, which has returned to South Carolina.

"The Hawks have a long-standing relationship with Iwakuni and our Japanese allies," Lt. Col. William Millett III, VMFA-533 commander, said in a Marine Corps statement. "We are excited to serve with the 'Ready Group' and to strengthen our international partnership."

"The best of us that have been here before are excited to see old

friends and introduce our new squadron mates to Japan and Japanese culture," he added.

The Hornets flown by VMFA-533 are used for attack, tactical air control, forward air control and reconnaissance.

While in Japan, the squadron will support the Marine Air-Ground Task Force commander with command and control, reconnaissance and destruction of enemy ground and air assets. They will also support expeditionary, joint and combined operations.

"Deploying to Japan and the Western Pacific gives the Hawks the opportunity to fly in new and challenging ranges while focusing on the collective security of the region," Millett said in the statement.

Such deployments typically last six months, although the length can change if the operational environment shifts.



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

An F/A-18D Hornet from Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 533 prepares to depart Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, S.C., for Japan earlier this month.

Iwakuni is the home of Marine Aircraft Group 12, which flies the F-35B Lightning II, the F/A-18D Hornet and the KC-130J Super Hercules.

The base is also home to ele-

ments of the Navy's Carrier Air Wing 5, which flies F/A-18E Super Hornets, EA-18G Growlers, E-2D Hawkeyes and C-2A Greyhounds.

bolinger.james@stripes.com
Twitter: @bolinger2004

WAR ON TERRORISM



DHA-DePa/AP

Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army soldiers celebrate around a statue of Kawa, a mythology figure in Kurdish culture, after they destroyed it in Afrin, northwestern Syria, early Sunday.

Turkey: Syria's Afrin taken

BY ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
AND SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkey's president said Sunday that the Turkish military and allied Syrian forces have taken "total" control of the town center of Afrin, a major development in the nearly two-month offensive against a Syrian Kurdish militia that controls the area.

The Kurdish militia called the assault on Afrin an "occupation" and vowed a "new phase" of guerrilla tactics against Turkish troops and its allied Syrian fighters.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the Turkish flag and the flag of the Syrian opposition fighters have been raised in the town, previously controlled by the Kurdish militia known as the People's Defense Units, or YPG.

"Many of the terrorists had turned tail and run away already," Erdogan said in a speech in western Turkey. "In Afrin's center, it is

no longer the rags of the terror organization that are waving but rather the symbols of peace and security."

It is not clear what Turkey will do after the capture of Afrin. Turkey views the Kurdish forces in the Afrin enclave along the border as terrorists linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, which has waged a decadeslong insurgency within Turkey's borders.

Erdogan has repeatedly said Turkey will not allow a "terror corridor" along its border and has vowed to push east after Afrin. Erdogan threatened to move on to Manbij, a Kurdish-run town to the east where U.S. troops have also maintained a presence after it was cleared of Islamic State militants in 2016.

Washington's support for the YPG, including arming the militia and relying on it to battle ISIS militants in eastern Syria, has strained relations between Turkey and the U.S. A push east could

further inflame tensions.

In an attempt to prevent such a move east, Washington began discussions to address Turkey's concerns about the Kurdish militia's presence in Manbij. Turkey wants the YPG to pull out of the town.

Meanwhile, U.S. and Kurdish officials said Turkey's fight with the YPG has distracted from fighting ISIS. A Kurdish official Sunday said the fight against ISIS in northeastern Deir el-Zour province, where remnants of ISIS have remained, was put on hold as the battle for Afrin unfolded.

On Sunday, Kurdish officials said they had evacuated Afrin of civilians. Footage of long lines of vehicles leaving the town was aired on Syrian state-run TV. Other residents got out on foot or on motorcycles.

Later Sunday, limited fighting was reported in some pockets in the Afrin town center. The Turkish military said it was combing the area for land mines and explosives.

All US victims of Iraq helo crash identified

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

The seven U.S. servicemen killed Thursday night in a helicopter crash in western Iraq near the Syrian border have been identified.

The Department of Defense statement confirmed some of the casualties were members of the New York Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, based in Westhampton Beach on Long Island.

The airmen were identified as Capt. Mark K. Weber, 29, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Capt. Andreas B. O'Keeffe, 37, of Center Moriches, N.Y.; Capt. Christopher T. Zanetti, 37, of Long Island City, N.Y.; Master Sgt. Christopher J. Raguso, 39, of Commack, N.Y.; Staff Sgt. Dushan J. Briggs, 30, of Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.; Master Sgt. William R. Posch, 36, of Indialantic, Fla.; and Staff Sgt. Carl P. Enis, 31, of Tallahassee, Fla.

Weber was assigned to the 38th Rescue Squadron at Moody Air Force Base, Ga.; Posch and Enis were assigned to the 308th Rescue Squadron, Air Force Reserve, at Patrick Air Force Base, Fla., according to the official statement.

New York City Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro said Raguso and Zanetti "bravely wore two uniforms in their extraordinary lives of service" with the fire department and the U.S. armed forces.

"He was a very stand-up, moral, ethical person, up one side and down the other," Zanetti's father told the New York Post. "He just wanted to be of service. He served people in the fire department and in the military and was going to do the same thing as a lawyer."

The HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crash did not appear to be the result of enemy activity, according

to a statement from the U.S.-led operation battling Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

Used by the Air Force for combat search and rescue, the Pave Hawk was on a routine training flight when it went down near the town of Qaim, in Anbar province, officials said.

A second helicopter accompanying it immediately reported the crash, and a quick-reaction force of Iraqi and coalition forces secured the scene, officials said.

"We are grateful to the Iraqi security forces for their immediate assistance in response to this tragic incident," said Brig. Gen. Jonathan P. Braga, director of operations for Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve. "This tragedy reminds us of the risks our men and women face every day in service of our nations. We are thinking of the loved ones of these servicemenbers today."

President Donald Trump tweeted Friday that their sacrifices "will never be forgotten."

On their Facebook profiles, some Air Force members and veterans in a group for Pave Hawk crewmembers and others began replacing their profile photos with images of two green footprints with a black ribbon, on which was written the Air Force pararescue motto, "That others may live."

The U.S.-led coalition battling ISIS insurgents in Iraq and Syria have an outpost in Qaim, which is located near the Syrian border. The crash Thursday was the second deadly aviation incident for the U.S. military in as many days; a Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet crashed off the coast of Florida on Wednesday, killing both crewmembers aboard.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

Botched suicide attack wounds 5 university students in Kabul

BY AMIR SHAH
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An attacker dressed in a school uniform set off a grenade amid a group of hundreds of university students in Afghanistan's capital on Sunday, killing himself and wounding five students, according to the district police chief.

Nasir Naderi said the attacker, who slipped past two guards, was wearing an explosives vest that failed to explode. The students

were inside a private compound where they were taking classes to prepare for university exams.

The attack took place in a Kabul neighborhood dominated by ethnic Hazaras, a Shiite minority frequently targeted by the Sunni extremists.

No one immediately claimed the attack, which resembled previous assaults carried out by Islamic State.

On Saturday, a sticky bomb attached to the motorcycle driven by a retired Pakistani army of-

ficer exploded in southern Zabul province's Shahjoh district, killing the officer and his guard, according to the provincial government spokesman, Gul Islam Seyal.

Pakistan has been criticized by both the United States and Afghanistan for aiding Taliban insurgents, a charge it denies. Seyal said the retired officer was aiding the Taliban, although he did not provide any proof of his claim.

A Pakistani military official said they have no knowledge of

any retired officer killed in Afghanistan. He spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Meanwhile, the Taliban attacked security positions northwest of Kabul, killing at least five police officers and setting off a two-hour gunbattle, according to Mohammed Zaman, the police chief for Ghazni province.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks across Afghanistan since the U.S. and NATO formally concluded their combat mission at

the end of 2014.

In the western Ghor province, meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed a young shepherd and wounded five others. Police spokesman Iqbal Nizami said the Taliban planted the bomb in order to target security forces.

In the eastern Khost province, police spokesman Basir Bina said a roadside bomb killed two children and wounded another nine. Both bombs went off on Saturday.



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NATION

Trump rails against Mueller investigation, McCabe

By PHILIP RUCKER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump fired off angry tweets Sunday morning railing against the Justice Department special counsel's Russia investigation and attacking the integrity of former FBI director James Comey and his former deputy, Andrew McCabe, charging that their notes from conversations with him were "Fake Memos."

For the second straight day, Trump was unrestrained in his commentary about Robert Mueller III's expanding investigation, which is probing not only Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election and possible links to his campaign, but also whether the president has sought to obstruct justice.

In one of his tweets, Trump protested, "Why does the Mueller team have 13 hardened Democrats, some big Crooked Hillary supporters, and Zero Republicans? Another Dem recently added... does anyone think this is fair? And yet, there is NO COLLUSION!"

The tweet overstates the partisan makeup of the special counsel's team and falsely asserts that no Republicans are on it.

Mueller is a longtime Republican. He was nominated as FBI director in 2001 by a Republican president, George W. Bush, and was appointed special counsel by the Republican whom Trump picked to be deputy attorney general, Rod Rosenstein.

At least seven of the 17 lawyers brought on by Mueller — including James Quarles, Jeannie Rhee and Andrew Weissman, have donated to Democratic political candidates, five of them to Hillary Clinton, Trump's 2016 opponent.

Under instruction from his attorneys, Trump has in the past been careful not to publicly criticize Mueller by name or otherwise directly antagonize the special counsel, but rather to make more general criticisms. On Saturday night, in an apparent



EVAN VUCCA/AP

In a series of weekend tweets, some containing false assertions, President Donald Trump lashed out at the investigation of possible collusion between his presidential campaign and Russia.

change of strategy, Trump for the first time tweeted the name of the special counsel.

"The Mueller probe should never have been started in that there was no collusion and there was no crime," Trump wrote. "It was based on fraudulent activities and a Fake Dossier paid for by Crooked Hillary and the DNC, and improperly used in FISA COURT for surveillance of my campaign. WITCH HUNT!"

The president's attack comes after his personal attorney, John Dowd, on Saturday called for an end to the Mueller investigation. He initially told the Daily Beast that he was speaking on behalf of the president, though he later backtracked and told The Washington Post that he was speaking only for himself.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., a member of the House Intelligence Committee, warned Trump that any interference in the Mueller probe would result in "a very, very long, bad 2018."

"If you have an innocent client, Mr. Dowd, act like it," Gowdy said on "Fox News Sunday." "Russia attacked our country. Let special counsel Mueller figure that out."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., warned that a move by Trump to order the firing of Mueller would be a step too far for lawmakers. "If he tried to do that, that would be the beginning of the end of his presidency because we're a rule-of-law nation," Graham said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Sen. Richard Durbin, of Illinois, the chamber's second-ranking Democrat, said he is concerned about "a constitutional crisis in this country."

"This president is engaged in desperate and reckless conduct to intimidate the law enforcement agencies in this country and to try and stop the special counsel," Durbin said on "Fox News Sunday." "That is unacceptable in a democracy."

In a pair of separate tweets on Sunday, Trump also attacked Comey and McCabe, both regular foils to the president. Trump sent his Sunday tweets from the White House. He departed the residence shortly before 10 a.m., heading to the Trump National Golf Club in Northern Virginia. Aides would not say who the president's golfing partners would be.

Special counsel has memos McCabe kept on Trump dealings

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Andrew McCabe, the onetime FBI deputy director long scorned by President Donald Trump and just fired by the attorney general, kept personal memos detailing interactions with the president that have been provided to the special counsel's office and are similar to the notes compiled by dismissed FBI chief James Comey, The Associated Press has learned.

The memos could factor into special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation as his team examines Trump campaign ties to Russia and possible obstructions of justice.

McCabe's memos include details of his own interactions with the president, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation who wasn't authorized to discuss the notes publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. They also recount different conversations he had with Comey, who kept notes on meetings with Trump that unerved him.

Though the precise contents are unknown, the memos possibly could help substantiate McCabe's assertion that he was unfairly maligned by a White House he says had declared "war" on the FBI and Mueller's investigation. They almost certainly contain, as Comey's memos did, previously undisclosed details about encounters between the Trump administration and FBI that could be of interest to Mueller.

The disclosure Saturday

came hours after Trump called McCabe's firing by Attorney General Jeff Sessions "a great day for Democracy" and asserted without elaboration that McCabe knew "all about the lies and corruption going on at the highest levels of the FBI!"

That sent former CIA Director John Brennan, an outspoken Trump critic, into a Twitter tizzy: "When the full extent of your venality, moral turpitude, and political corruption becomes known, you will take your rightful place as a disgraced demagogue in the dustbin of history. You may scapegoat Andy McCabe, but you will not destroy America... America will triumph over you."

Sessions said he acted on the recommendation of FBI disciplinary officials who said McCabe had not been candid with a watchdog office investigation. McCabe was fired two days before his retirement date on Sunday.

An upcoming inspector general's report is expected to conclude that McCabe, who spent more than 20 years with the FBI, had authorized the release of information to the media and was not forthcoming with the watchdog office as it examined the bureau's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. McCabe has vigorously disputed the allegations and said his credibility had been attacked as "part of a larger effort not just to slander me personally" but also the FBI and law enforcement.

Congressman offers deputy FBI director a job to save pension

By AMBER PHILLIPS

The Washington Post

That's one way of protesting Andrew McCabe's firing as deputy FBI director, roughly a day before he was set to retire: At least one Democratic congressman has offered McCabe a temporary job so he can get full retirement benefits — and McCabe appears to be considering.

Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., announced Saturday afternoon that he has offered McCabe a job to work on election security in his office, "so that he can reach the needed length of service" to retire.

"My offer of employment to Mr. McCabe is a legitimate offer to work on election security," Pocan said in a statement. "Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of American democracy and both Republicans and Democrats should be concerned about election integrity."

A spokeswoman for McCabe, Melissa



McCabe

he'd consider hiring McCabe, too.

It's not immediately clear if getting fired from the FBI on a Friday and going to work on Capitol Hill on a Monday would solve McCabe's problems for certain, though at least one former federal official with knowledge of retirement rules says it probably would.

McCabe's team is confident that he had at least 20 years of law enforcement

work under his belt — defined as carrying a weapon or supervising people who do — which made him eligible to retire on his 50th birthday on Sunday with full retirement benefits.

With those 20 years, he would need to just go to work with the federal government for another day or so in any job he pleases, whether that's as an election security analyst for a Wisconsin congressman or a typist for a day, to get full benefits, said the former official. "The reason matters so much as the fact that he's working within the federal government with the same retirement benefits until or after his 50th birthday. (Though this former official stressed that it would probably look more ethical if McCabe worked for at least a pay period rather than just one day.)

McCabe began working at the FBI's New York field office in 1996, was promoted to a supervisor position at the FBI's headquarters in 2006, and held various jobs at

the bureau until 2016, when he was named deputy director. His final job at the FBI was an executive perch that likely doesn't count toward his law enforcement job, said the former retirement official.

McCabe stepped down from his FBI job in January amid attacks from President Donald Trump, but he had been using up accumulated leave to get to his birthday to receive full retirement benefits — a move Trump attacked him for on Twitter after The Washington Post reported his plans.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired McCabe late Friday night, about 26 hours before McCabe's retirement, citing an internal general report from the Justice Department that had found "that Mr. McCabe had made an unauthorized disclosure to the news media and lacked candor — including under oath — on multiple occasions."

On Saturday evening, a spokesman for Pocan said they hadn't yet heard from McCabe on his job offer.

NATION

Authorities: All victims found in bridge collapse

By KATHERINE SHAVER
AND MICHAEL LARIS
The Washington Post

Five bodies were extricated from the wreckage of a collapsed pedestrian bridge near Miami on Saturday. With a sixth person who died at a hospital, authorities said Saturday night that they thought they had accounted for all those killed in the collapse.

The first two vehicles extracted Saturday were flattened and had a total of three bodies inside. Work continued, and two more bodies were found Saturday night.

Although authorities had said at one point that the number of fatalities could rise beyond six, they said at a 10 p.m. briefing that they thought they had accounted for all of the dead.

Of the eight vehicles originally caught beneath the 950-ton span, six had been trapped entirely, with four "very difficult to extract," said Maurice Kemp, deputy mayor of Miami-Dade County.

The recovery effort was "very

difficult," said Juan Perez, director of the Miami-Dade Police Department, but it appeared that crews had "finally got the last victim out." He said another search through the wreckage would be made. But he said he was "confident that there was no one left."

Police confirmed that they are reviewing reports that construction workers said they heard a loud cracking sound come from the structure around 8 a.m. Thursday, almost six hours before the collapse.

"That's all part of the investigation," said Perez.

On Saturday, investigators for the National Transportation Safety Board identified pieces of the bridge structure to collect as evidence to "understand the collapse sequence and what caused it," said NTSB spokesman Christopher O'Neill.

Investigators also gathered documents on the span's design, construction and inspections, he said.

The NTSB's lead investigator in the collapse, Robert Accetta,



PEDRO PORTAL, MIAMI HERALD/AP

Recovery operations continue at the site of the collapsed pedestrian bridge near Florida International University in Miami on Saturday. Florida authorities believe they have accounted for all of the dead.

has said crews were working at the north end of the span when it fell. They were applying force "designed to strengthen" one of 10 diagonal elements connecting the walkway and an overhead section. Those diagonal pieces, known as members, are "integral parts" of the structure, Accetta said.

"There were two cables that they were working on at that time," Accetta said Friday evening. "They were internal to that diagonal member." He said it is unclear whether the collapse started in that area, and investigators have not determined whether the tightening of those cables "was related to the cracks that they discovered."

"A crack in a bridge does not

necessarily mean that it's unsafe," Accetta said.

Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said he was frustrated that state and university officials were "pointing fingers at the other guy."

"Whose responsibility was it?" Nelson asked. "If there was a two-hour meeting that occurred from 9 to 11, and the bridge collapsed ... just a few hours later, then somebody needs to be held accountable."

On Saturday morning, flattened trucks carried two vehicles, draped in black tarpaulins, to the medical examiner's office.

Police identified four victims as Oswald Gonzalez, 57; Alberto Arias, 53; Navarro Brown; and Rolando Fraga Hernandez.

Brown died at a hospital, police said. Hernandez was in a gold Jeep Cherokee pulled from the rubble at 5:40 a.m. Saturday, and Gonzalez and Arias were in a white Chevrolet extricated at 7 a.m., police said.

Relatives also have confirmed the death of Alexa Duran, 18, according to media accounts.

Perez said chaplains were with victims' families, and workers held moments of silence as vehicles were brought out, "so these victims can have some dignity."

"It's going to be a long process," Perez said. "We've been saying that from the beginning because of the amount of weight and the size of the structure that is laying on top of these vehicles."

US: Russian hack didn't compromise power grid, plants

By MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Russian government hacking operation aimed at the U.S. power grid did not compromise operations at any of the nation's power plants, federal regulators and the industry said Friday.

Corporate networks at some of the 99 nuclear power plants licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were affected by the 2017 hack aimed at the energy grid and other infrastructure, but no safety, security or emergency preparedness functions were affected, the NRC said in a statement.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also said the incident had no operational impacts on interstate transmission of electricity.

Even so, government and industry leaders said the attacks underscored the increased threat of electronic and computer-based attacks on a range of infrastructure.

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said the prolonged cyberattack "demonstrates exactly why I'm creating an Office of Cyber Security and Emergency Response. The new office will consolidate and strengthen efforts to 'combat the growing nefarious cyberthreats we face,'" Perry said, adding that his department worked closely with other federal agencies and energy providers to help ensure that hacking attempts "failed or were stopped."

The Trump administration accused Moscow on Thursday of an elaborate plot to penetrate America's electric grid, factories, water supply and even air travel through cyberhacking.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Energy Secretary Rick Perry said he is creating an Office of Cyber Security and Emergency Response to help combat infrastructure threats.

U.S. national security officials said the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and intelligence agencies determined Russian intelligence and others were behind a broad range of cyberattacks starting more than a year ago. Russian hackers infiltrated the networks that run the basic services Americans rely on each day: nuclear power, water and manufacturing plants.

U.S. officials said the hackers chose their targets methodically, obtained access to computer systems, conducted "network reconnaissance" and then attempted to cover their tracks by deleting evidence of the intrusions. The operation resorted to various methods — including a kind of cyberattack known as spear-phishing — to try to compromise legitimate user accounts, gather user credentials, and target industrial control systems and their networks, officials said.

U.S. nuclear plants are designed as operational "islands" that are not connected to the internet and other networks. Nuclear power provides about 20 percent of the nation's electricity.

3 Ark. students paddled for walking out of school

By MEGAN CERULLO
New York Daily News

Three students at an Arkansas high school were swatted with a paddle for participating in a national walkout against gun violence Wednesday.

Students who left their Greenbrier High School classrooms in protest were reportedly given a choice of two punishments.

They could accept a suspension or receive a paddling, Arkansas-Matters.com reported.

The Greenbrier Public Schools superintendent said students were disciplined for not alerting the school about the demonstration and leaving class.

Wylie Greer, 17, was among the three students who walked out of the school building.

When he returned to the classroom he was presented with his options.

He chose two swats with a wooden paddle over two days of suspension.

"In my mind, the in-school suspension was essentially conceding to sitting down and shutting up, which is what the admin and school wanted to happen, to keep it quiet almost," Greer told CNN. "I felt if I stood up and took the punishment in an honorable way,

that it was better than doing what they wanted me to do, which is shut up and go on with our lives.

"I don't think that they expected me to take the corporal punishment," he added.

Greenbrier Schools Superintendent Scott Spainhour said students were disciplined for walking out of class, which is against school policy.

Students at an Ohio school were disciplined for not leaving the classroom on the National Walk-out Day.

Jacob Shoemaker, a senior at Hilliard Davidson High School, said he didn't want to place himself on either side of the gun control debate.

He remained in class and did homework for about 20 minutes while his teachers and other students walked out in protest.

He was later suspended from school.

"Student refused to follow instructions after being warned," his suspension notice read.

Shoemaker was suspended for remaining in the classroom rather than going to a part of the school designated for nonprotesters, The Washington Post reported.

NATION

Retired Navy captain to overhaul Hawaii agency

By AUDREY McAVOY
Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii on Friday appointed a retired Navy captain to lead an overhaul of the state Emergency Management Agency two months after an employee mistakenly sent an alert warning of a ballistic missile attack.

Thomas Travis has commanded a submarine squadron and was deputy commander of an aircraft carrier strike group. Travis served as the studies director of the Joint Center for Operational Analysis, where he helped prepare a report on the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

The false missile alert sent to cellphones and airwaves in January triggered widespread panic and led to the ouster of the agency's senior leadership.

Travis declined to comment on what went wrong with the missile alert, telling reporters he has read the reports on the incident but

hasn't investigated the issue himself. He said he would first aim to

'I really have always loved Hawaii. It's given a lot to me, and I hope to be able to give back.'

Thomas Travis
retired Navy
captain

about ballistic missile attacks.

Travis has some personal experience with disasters in Hawaii. He spoke of living through Tropi-

cal Storm Iselle, which toppled trees and knocked out power in the Big Island's Puna district in 2014. Travis was living in Kapoho at the time. He shared memories of using a chainsaw to cut trees and clear roads.

He declined to comment on whether the federal government, as U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, has suggested, should be in charge of sending warnings

cal Storm Iselle, which toppled trees and knocked out power in the Big Island's Puna district in 2014. Travis was living in Kapoho at the time. He shared memories of using a chainsaw to cut trees and clear roads.

He said he didn't lose power because he and his wife lived off the grid with solar panels and batteries.

"I really have always loved Hawaii. It's given a lot to me, and I hope to be able to give back," Travis said when asked why he took the job.

The agency's previous director, Vern Miyagi, resigned after the alert mishap. The employee who sent the alert was fired. A second worker just before disciplinary action was taken, and another was suspended without pay.

The agency said the alert was sent during a routine exercise. The employee who sent the alert said he didn't hear the word "exercise" being spoken and he believed the threat was real.



AUDREY McAVOY/AP

Thomas Travis, a retired Navy captain, poses for cameras at a news conference in Honolulu on Friday.



KATIE WEIDENBOERNER, THE (DuBois, Pa.) COURIER-EXPRESS/AP

FBI agents and representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources set up a base Tuesday off Route 555 in Benazette Township, Elk County, Pa., at a site where treasure hunters say Civil War-era gold is buried.

FBI agents visit Pa. site where Civil War gold shipment is rumored to be buried

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

A 155-year-old legend about buried federal gold appears to have caught the attention of the FBI.

Dozens of FBI agents, along with Pennsylvania state officials and members of a treasure-hunting group, trekked last week to a remote site where local lore has it that a Civil War gold shipment was lost or hidden during the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg.

The treasure-hunting group Finders Keepers has long insisted it found the gold buried in a state

forest at Dents Run, about 135 miles northeast of Pittsburgh, but said the state would not allow it to dig.

The FBI has refused to say why it was at the site Tuesday, revealing only that it was conducting court-authorized law enforcement activity. Finders Keepers owner Dennis Parada said Friday he's under FBI orders not to talk.

Historians have cast doubt on the claim that a shipment of gold was lost on its way to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

Depending on who's doing the telling, the shipment had either 26 gold bars or 52 bars, each weigh-

ing 50 pounds, meaning it would be worth about \$27 million, or about \$55 million today.

In an order post on the Finders Keepers website, Parada said his group found the likely burial site using a high-powered metal detector. But he said the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has refused to allow the group to dig.

A department spokesman said Friday that the group previously asked to excavate the site but elected not to pay a required \$15,000 bond. The spokesman referred comment on Tuesday's activity to the FBI.

FBI given more time in alleged serial killer case

Associated Press

CROWN POINT, Ind. — A judge has given the FBI more time to pull data from cellphones collected during its probe of a Gary, Ind., man accused of killing seven women.

Attorneys for Darren Vann, who was discharged from the Marines after serving from 1991 to 1993, had argued in a motion filed last month that authorities were being slow in providing them with data from three cellphones collected in the FBI's investigation into Vann. The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

Defense attorney Gofko Kasich told Lake Criminal Judge Samuel Cappas on Friday that he and other attorneys for Vann, 46, had subsequently been provided data from two of the cellphones but that the FBI was still collecting data from a third cellphone.

Kasich asked Cappas if he would not exclude that evidence at trial and whether he would set a reasonable date for when the information should be provided to

defense attorneys. The judge said he didn't want to second-guess the FBI's methods but agreed to issue an order for the federal agency to provide a report on the investigation's status by April 20.

Vann is scheduled to stand trial Oct. 22 in the strangulation deaths of Afrika Hardy, 19, and Anith Jones, 35. Hardy's body was found in a Hammond, Ind., motel room in October 2014. After Vann was arrested in her death, he allegedly admitted to killing six other women, including Jones, whose body was found in an abandoned Gary house.

Trials in the five other slayings haven't been scheduled.

Vann defense attorney Matthew Fech had argued in a motion last month that prosecutors' subpoenas for records from the Lake County Jail, the U.S. Marines and the Ohio high school that Vann attended were "overly broad."

Cappas ruled Friday that prosecutors can use broad language in subpoenas for records from those three entities.

At least 12 accused in animal ritual in Texas

SAN ANTONIO — Authorities in Texas have arrested at least a dozen people for alleged animal cruelty after interrupting what they believe was ritual sacrifice.

The San Antonio Express-News reported that Bexar County sheriff's deputies found dead and

dismembered animals in a San Antonio area home Friday night after receiving calls that animals were being sacrificed.

Sgt. Elizabeth Gonzalez said deputies saw more than a dozen people inside a garage where a woman was cutting up animal parts while another person was draining the blood of a chicken into a container.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

Winning Powerball ticket is sold in Pa.

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

If you bought some Powerball tickets in a St. Patrick's Day haze on Saturday, check your pockets.

A ticket sold in Pennsylvania matched the drawing for an estimated \$456.7 million, the Multi-State Lottery Association said. The winning numbers were 22-57-59-60-66, and the Powerball was 7.

There were other tickets that scored big payouts, too. A ticket sold in Texas won \$2 million after a player or players opted to chip in an extra dollar. Two tickets sold in California and Missouri matched the numbers for a \$1 million payout.

The Pennsylvania ticket's winnings were the eighth-largest in the game's history, the lottery association said.

That win came nearly a week after a judge ruled that a woman in New Hampshire could remain anonymous after claiming a \$560 million jackpot.

If the new millionaire in Pennsylvania wants to keep their identity secret, they would probably face a similar legal hurdle. The Pennsylvania Lottery requires winners to be named to ensure that the system operates with "integrity and transparency."

But past winners have argued that the raised profile makes them targets.

Judge Charles Temple, who ruled in favor of the New Hampshire woman, concluded that revealing her name would be an invasion of privacy, in part because lottery winners in general are subject to "repeated solicitation, harassment, and even violence," he wrote.

He cited how a past lottery winner received a bomb threat, how another had received nonstop phone calls and how several others had received requests from strangers who wanted handouts.

Less than three years ago, your chances of becoming an instant millionaire were 1 in roughly 175 million after starting with a \$2 ticket. Now, the odds are 1 in roughly 292 million.

Tweaks to the game in October 2015 increased the number of total balls, from 59 to 69, from which players need to pick five. It may seem like a modest change, but the odds of winning the jackpot plummeted.

So now it's even harder to strike it rich with Powerball, leading to fewer chances of big payouts, which in turn results in ballooning jackpots. When a drawing is held and there's no winning ticket, the prize pool rolls over—and expands. In turn, the jackpots become bigger and bigger, making winnings of half a billion dollars—like this one—almost feel routine.

United flight diverted due to unauthorized dog onboard

By ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

United Airlines had an in-flight incident involving a dog.

No, not that one.

Or that other one.

Another one.

A United flight from Newark, N.J., to St. Louis was diverted Thursday after the airline learned it had an unauthorized passenger onboard: a dog. The pet was bound for Akron, Ohio, but was mistakenly loaded onto the St. Louis flight, company spokesman Natalie Noonan told The Washington Post on Saturday.

And so the plane followed the dog's itinerary. Flight 3996 banked toward northeast Ohio after the airline "chose the fastest option to reunite the dog with his family," Noonan said.

Passengers were provided compensation for the delay, Noonan said, but she declined to describe the compensation or confirm how many passengers were onboard. CNN reported 33.

A Petchenka, a spokesman for the flight data company FlightRadar24, told the Post that the flight averages about two hours. This was a four-hour journey, with roughly an hour and a half spent on the ground in Akron after diverting near Columbus, he said.

The incident was United's third

dog-related mishap last week; fortunately, this time it led to a happier conclusion than the first. On March 12, a French bulldog puppy named Kokito suffocated in an overhead bin after a flight attendant insisted the owner stow the dog there for a three-hour flight from Houston to New York. "This little guy fought hard for his life, flailing our flight with his cries until he finally ran out of breath," passenger June Lara wrote on Facebook after the incident. "United Airlines does not care about the safety of their furry travelers. This poor family paid \$125 for their pet to be murdered in front of them."

United said it would take full responsibility for the "tragic accident that should never have occurred" and that pets should never be placed in the overhead bins. The Transportation Department is investigating the incident.

Then on Tuesday, another case of mistaken canine identity occurred on a United flight, sending a dog owner into a frenzy when he pleaded in the overhead bins in the place of her German shepherd, Irgo, in a facility at the Kansas City airport.

Kara Swindle paid to ship Irgo as cargo on a flight from Oregon to Kansas, but instead the German shepherd was put on a flight to Japan.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG RUTTLE/AP

A New York City firefighter high-fives spectators as they watch the St. Patrick's Day parade Saturday in Manhattan.

Ireland's prime minister joins NYC St. Patrick's Day parade

By DAVID JEANS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar joined along as Manhattan's Fifth Avenue came alive with the sound of bagpipes, trumpets and crowds decked out in lots of green Saturday at the 257th running of New York City's St. Patrick's Day parade.

Several bagpipe bands led a parade made up of more than 100 marching bands after Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo spoke briefly, calling it a "day of inclusion" and adding: "We're all immigrants."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, also a Democrat, marched with police Commissioner James O'Neill under sunny skies.

Varadkar, Ireland's first openly gay leader, watched the parade at St. Patrick's Cathedral before joining the march. In remarks, Cuomo said it was "my pleasure to march with him," especially in a parade that long tried to ban gays.

The parade, beginning at 11 a.m., lasted nearly six hours. An estimated 150,000 marchers made the 1.4-mile trek past Central Park, the cathedral and Trump Tower.

Large since the mid-1800s, the parade has celebrated Irish culture and Irish immigrants, who once faced nativist calls for their exclusion from the workforce — and from the country — when they began arriving in the city in huge numbers during the Irish Famine.

In the 1990s, parade organizers were involved in annual court fights over whether to exclude openly gay groups from



Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar, left, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo walk along Fifth Avenue during the St. Patrick's Day parade.

the march. This year, at least two groups in the parade had banners identifying marchers as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

For the 167th time, the lead group marching in the parade was 800 members of the 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, of the New York Army National Guard. Cuomo joined them. The regiment, once predominantly made up of Irish immigrants, first led the parade in 1851 as a deterrent to anti-immigrant violence.

Judy Hughes, whose father used to march with the 69th Infantry Regiment, also known as the "Fighting Irish," said she's been attending the parade "since I was a little girl."

Her husband, Bill Hughes, a retired police officer who marched in the parade for 10 years, looked on as a band passed.

"It's better being on the other side," he said.

This year's grand marshal was Loretta Brennan Glucksman,

chairwoman of The American Ireland Fund, a group that has raised millions of dollars for philanthropic projects in Ireland, including funding for integrated schools for Catholic and Protestant children in Northern Ireland.

She rode along the parade route in a Central Park horse carriage driven by a family friend.

The parade was a familiar occasion for Matthew McCrosson, 68, who has frequently marched in it during the past half-century.

"The parade truly signifies the Irish investment over 250 years in the greater New York area," McCrosson said. "The parade represents not only Irish, but people from all nationalities."

Danny and Carol Manley, an Irish New Jersey couple, watched the parade with their son, Dan Jr.

"We like to come back, get together, see the bagpipers and see how the generations have grown up," Danny Manley said.

WORLD

Putin elected to 4th presidential term

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
AND ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

YEKATERINBURG, Russia — An exit poll and early returns suggest that Vladimir Putin has easily won a fourth term, keeping him as Russia's president for six more years.

The nationwide exit poll conducted by the All-Russia Opinion Research Center showed that Putin won 73.9 percent of Sunday's presidential vote. The poll covered 161,000 respondents at 1,200 precincts in 68 Russian provinces and had a margin of error of no more than 3.5 percent.

The exit poll findings looked similar to early results from Russia's Far East, where the presidential vote ended eight hours ago. The Central Election Commission said with 21 percent of all precincts counted, Putin was leading the race with 71.9 percent of the vote.

The exit poll showed Communist candidate Pavel Grudinin in second place with 11.2 percent of the vote, while ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy came in third with 6.7 percent.

The vote Sunday was tainted by widespread reports of ballot-box stuffing and forced voting, but

the complaints will likely do little to undermine Putin.

Putin's main challenges in the election were to obtain a huge margin of victory in order to claim an indisputable mandate. The exit poll suggests he got more than 70 percent of the vote.

He faced seven minor candidates on the ballot. Putin's most vehement and visible foe, anti-corruption campaigner Alexei Navalny, was rejected as a candidate because he was convicted of fraud in a case widely regarded as politically motivated.

Casting his ballot in Moscow, Putin seemed confident of victory, saying he would consider any percentage of votes a success.

Given the lack of real competition, authorities were struggling against voter apathy — and put many of Russia's nearly 111 million voters under intense pressure to cast ballots.

Election monitors were reporting irregularities at voting stations across Russia, even though election authorities were under orders to ensure voting was free and fair after violations marred Putin's last election in 2012.

Back then, Putin faced a serious opposition movement, but since then he has boosted his popularity thanks to Russian actions in Ukraine and Syria. Now,



PAVEL GOLOVKIN/AP

A woman prepares to cast her ballot in the presidential election in Moscow on Sunday.

he faces seven challengers but no serious threat to his rule.

Many voters said they were under pressure from their employers to vote.

Yevgeny Roizman, the mayor of Russia's fourth-largest city, Yekaterinburg, told The Associated Press that local officials and state employees have all received orders "from higher up" to make sure the presidential vote turnout is over 60 percent.

A doctor at one of the city's hospitals told the AP how one kind of voting pressure works.

The doctor, who gave her name only as Yekaterina because of fears about repercussions, said she and her co-workers were told to fill out forms detailing not only where they would cast their ballots, but giving the names and details of two "allies" whom they promised to persuade to go vote.

"People were indignant at first, said: 'They're violating our rights'... but what can you do?" she said at a cafe Saturday.

UK says Russia has stash of nerve agent

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's foreign minister said Sunday that he has evidence Russia has been stockpiling a nerve agent in violation of international law, after a Russian envoy suggested the toxin used to poison a former spy in England could have come from a U.K. lab.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said the trail of blame for the poisoning of Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia "leads inexorably to the Kremlin."

Johnson told the BBC "we actually have evidence within the last 10 years that Russia has not only been investigating the delivery of nerve agents for the purposes of assassination but has also been creating and stockpiling Novichok" — the type of nerve agent Britain says was used in the attack.

Johnson said he will brief European Union foreign ministers on the case Monday before meeting NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg.

The foreign secretary said officials from the Netherlands-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons would arrive in Britain on Monday to take samples of the nerve agent used to poison the Skripals.

Britain says it is Novichok, a class of powerful nerve agent developed in the Soviet Union toward the end of the Cold War. Tests to independently verify the British findings are expected to take at least two weeks, Britain's Foreign Office said.

Vladimir Chizhov, Moscow's EU ambassador, said Russia has no chemical weapons stockpiles and was not behind the

poisoning.

Chizhov pointed out that the U.K. chemical weapons research facility, Porton Down, is only 8 miles from Salisbury, where Skripal — a former Russian intelligence officer convicted in his home country of spying for Britain — and his daughter were found March 4. They remain in critical condition.

Asked if he was saying Porton Down was responsible, Chizhov replied, "I don't know."

The U.K. government dismissed the ambassador's suggestion as "nonsense."

Johnson

and Russia have each expelled 23 diplomats, broken off high-level contacts and taken other punitive steps in the escalating tit-for-tat dispute, which clouded the run-up to Sunday's presidential election in Russia. Exit polls showed President Vladimir Putin easily won a fourth term amid widespread voter apathy.

Western powers see the poisoning of the Skripals as the latest sign of increasingly aggressive Russian interference in foreign countries.

Johnson said Britain's National Security Council will meet to discuss "what further measures if any" the country will take.

Russia's ambassador in London, Alexander Yakovenko, called for "cooler heads," telling the Mail on Sunday that the dispute is "escalating dangerously and out of proportion."

N. Korean diplomat heads to Finland for US talks

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A senior North Korean diplomat handling North American affairs was heading to Finland on Sunday for talks with the U.S. and South Korea.

Choe Kang Il's trip comes ahead of a possible meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Choe was seen at a Beijing airport Sunday before boarding a flight to Finland. The report cited unnamed "diplomatic sources" in Seoul as saying Choe would take part in a meeting with former U.S. diplomats, including former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Kathleen Stephens, and South Korean security experts.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the gathering would be similar to the so-called "Track 2" dialogue that has involved North Korean officials and former U.S. officials and experts. It gave no

further details.

Choe was in the delegation North Korea sent to last month's Winter Olympics in South Korea.

On Saturday, Sweden's foreign minister concluded three days of talks in Stockholm with her North Korean counterpart, saying they discussed the "opportunities and challenges for continued diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution" to the Koreas' security dispute.

Sweden has been rumored as a possible site for a U.S.-North Korea summit, though a truce village on the South Korean side of the demilitarized zone between the Koreas is seen as more likely.

Trump has agreed to meet Kim by May. So far, North Korea has yet to comment publicly on what it hopes to gain from the talks.

Senior South Korean officials who traveled to the North Korean capital of Pyongyang this month and met with Kim say he is willing to discuss the U.S.'s nuclear weapons program.



BULLITT MARQUEE/AP

Firefighters battle a fire at the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino in Manila, Philippines, on Sunday.

Hotel fire in Manila leaves at least 3 dead

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A fire that hit a hotel and casino complex in the Philippine capital on Sunday killed at least three employees, trapped two others and forced the evacuation of more than 300 guests, some by helicopter, officials said.

Police said it remains unclear if the fire at the Manila Pavilion Hotel and Casino, which was still raging after seven hours, started in the casino or in an area of the hotel that was under renovation.

TV footage showed dark gray smoke billowing from the first and second floors of the hotel as rescuers brought people out of the building.

Johnny Yu, who heads Manila's disaster-response

agency, told reporters that at least six other people were overwhelmed by heavy smoke and taken to a hospital. Among the dead were two security guards and a treasury officer, he said.

Yu initially said at least four people died in the fire, but other officials later said that one of those who was feared to have died was revived by doctors at a hospital and was in critical condition.

"The smoke is very heavy and, second, there's the wind that we're trying to overcome," Yu said. "Our firefighters are having a lot of difficulty."

At least 19 people were unaccounted for, but Yu said only two, both security camera operators, were confirmed to have been trapped in the hotel.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Coyote captured after standoff outside jail

VA ROANOKE — Authorities in Virginia engaged in a two-hour standoff outside a city jail. Their foe? A coyote.

Ricky Clemmons, with Roanoke's Solid Waste Management department, told The Roanoke Times he encountered the full-grown coyote crouched near a recycling bin in the shade of the jail and state courthouse buildings Friday morning. He said the coyote snarled, but didn't run.

Authorities eventually used a tranquilizer dart to take the animal from the scene. While all humans escaped unscathed, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Conservation Police Officer Shannon Smith said the animal showed signs of being sick and would be euthanized.

Woman accused of threat to son's school

NC HIDDENITE — Authorities said a North Carolina woman threatened to bomb her son's school because she was upset that he was being punished.

Alexander County Sheriff Chris Bowman told WBTB-TV that Barbara Elizabeth Sherrill, 29, made threats about placing bombs at East Alexander Middle School. Sherrill's son reportedly got into an altercation and was being disciplined by school officials.

Sherrill told others about the bombs and said law enforcement "better hope they find them before they go off." A statement from authorities says no threats were found after the school was searched.

The Lenoir woman was charged with felony false report of mass violence on education property.

Police: Man took taxi to and from bank robbery

IN EVANSVILLE — Police say a 19-year-old Indiana man took a cab to and from a bank robbery and that he paid the driver with some of his stolen cash.

Derrick Faria was arrested less than an hour after Thursday's robbery of a Fifth Third Bank branch in Evansville. The Evansville Courier & Press reported that Faria reportedly passed a teller a note demanding money, but that he didn't show a weapon.

Faria was being held at the Vanderburgh County Jail on preliminary charges of robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia.

More dogs found with animal cruelty suspect

MI ROME TOWNSHIP — A woman accused of animal cruelty after more than 200 animals were removed from her southern Michigan property was arrested after authorities say they found additional neglected animals.

Sharon Kay Evans, of Lenawee County's Rome Township, was arrested Friday on suspicion of violating an order not to possess

THE CENSUS

\$5M

The amount a Cleveland restaurant says someone won in a weekly raffle that was intended to draw business but ended up lasting nearly a year as the jackpot climbed. The crowd at Grayton Road Tavern hooded and holed Wednesday when the latest entry drawn in the Queen of Hearts game picked the right number. WJW-TV reported the winner is a man from Hinckley, Ohio, who opted to remain anonymous for now.



ELIAS FUNEZ, THE (GRASS VALLEY, CALIF.) UNION/AP

A game fit for a king

Dressed as royalty, King Steele Witchee, left, challenges Seven Hills Middle School teacher Paul Gross during the Tournament of Games portion of the 28th annual Medieval Feast at the Miners Foundry Cultural Center in Nevada City, Calif., on Thursday.

animals. Sheriff's officials said they acted on tips that Evans had dogs and recovered more than a dozen after obtaining a search warrant.

Earlier this year, authorities removed roughly 200 dogs, 32 horses, five cats, two peacocks and a donkey from the property. A not guilty plea was entered for her in January on a charge of felony animal cruelty.

Man queried in goat's death barred from farm

ME SCARBOROUGH — A man questioned in the death of a pregnant goat killed with a crossbow has been barred from the Maine farm where the animal was found.

The Portland Press Herald reported that a judge issued a protective order for the owner of Smiling Hill Farm against Daniel Arnold, 40.

Police investigating the goat's death arrested Arnold last month on suspicion of possessing a crossbow in violation of a previous probation order. He has not been charged with killing the animal. Investigators said he was seen

near the farm on Feb. 17, the night before the goat was found dead. Police said he has denied shooting the animal.

Teddy bear with toy gun sparks anxiety in town

NM SOCORRO — A giant stuffed teddy bear sitting on a park bench holding a toy gun near an elementary school sparked anxiety in one New Mexico town.

KOB-TV in Albuquerque reported the teddy bear was spotted Tuesday in Socorro, but police said no laws were broken.

Socorro Police Chief Mike Winders said police investigated the matter and there was no specific threat attached.

No arrests were made.

Veteran inaccurately declared dead

NC FAYETTEVILLE — Federal officials have discovered a North Carolina veteran isn't dead yet.

The Fayetteville Observer reported that Charles Covell, 81, of Fayetteville, was surprised to

learn that he had been declared dead by the Veterans Affairs Department last month.

Covell's wife realized something was wrong when a monthly disability payment was not deposited into their account. They learned a death certificate for a Charles Covell was filed in January.

Covell spent 12 years in the Army, serving with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg.

A spokeswoman from U.S. Rep. Richard Hudson's office said Tuesday the VA said the mistake had been corrected.

Warrant: Man says toy gun used in carjackings

LA NEW ORLEANS — An 18-year-old man who is accused of using a toy gun in several armed carjackings in Louisiana has been arrested.

NOLA.com/The Times-Picayune reported that New Orleans police arrested Don Johnson on March 8 after officers said they saw him driving a car that was stolen three days earlier in an armed carjacking.

Johnson's arrest warrant states that he confessed to three armed carjackings along with other robberies.

According to the arrest warrant, Johnson said he did not use a real gun in any of the robberies, but rather a toy gun that he'd painted black so that it would appear real. Johnson was booked on several charges that include armed robbery and carjacking.

Police say woman hit husband with cans

OR LAKESIDE — Authorities arrested an Oregon woman accused of assaulting her husband with canned goods.

The Coos Bay World reported that sheriff's deputies responding to a report of domestic violence found evidence that Katherine Lavigne, 53, of Lakeside beat her husband with a can of tomato sauce and threw other cans at him.

Lavigne was booked into jail on an assault charge. The Coos County Sheriff's Office says deputies also found methamphetamine in her possession, and a drug charge is pending.

From wire reports

FACES

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Sean Bean is as famous for his rugged looks and thick northern British accent as the many creative ways in which he dies on screen.

He's been stabbed, shot, chased off a cliff, tossed off a satellite dish, beheaded, exploded, killed by arrows, and drawn and quartered in everything from the Bond movie "Goldeneye" to "Game of Thrones" and "The Lord of the Rings."

For his new series, the Yorkshire-bred actor shockingly makes it to the end of the season. In "The Oath," on Crackle, Bean plays the imprisoned patriarch of a gang of rogue cops. It's a brooding, dark and violent look at how corrosive corruption can be.

Bean, 58, talked with The Associated Press about the new series, his many deaths and why he's pleased that he's left his mark on "Game of Thrones" long after losing his head.

Associated Press: This is another tightly wound, sinister character. What attracts you to them?

Sean Bean: I guess when your character is in darkness or is very cerebral and contained, you don't have to learn as many lines. (Laughs.) You just do it with facial expression. They do actually tend to be men-of-not-many-words sort of characters — I quite like that. I don't like saying too much. I don't like too much repetition.

The series is shot in Puerto Rico and had to contend with Hurricane Maria in September. The cast and crew returned to finish filming after that monster storm. Was it hard?

I was there for the first few weeks. I'd finished my scenes by, I suppose, July, something like that. I'd been gone about three weeks when I started picking it up on the news report. It was pretty bad, you know. I know it gets storms in that part of the world, but I never thought it would be as bad as that. I thought about the people there who welcomed us with open arms. They're very friendly and hardworking people and it was just a shock to think that they were there and the power was out.

Is there a second season in the works and are you a part of it?

Well, I don't die in it. Well, maybe I shouldn't tell you. You know, everyone expects me to die, don't they? I think there's talk of it. I think they're seeing how it goes down and see what the reaction is.

Can we talk about your many deaths? Does it affect your choices?

I don't mind. I remember Sean Connery once said that he doesn't like dying in films.



STEVIE DRETT/Crackle via AP

Sean Bean, left, and Ryan Kwanten star in the Crackle original series "The Oath." Bean has also appeared — and died — in the film "The Lord of the Rings" and the television series "Game of Thrones."

Sean Bean on his many deaths and 'Game of Thrones' legacy

He doesn't take jobs on where he dies in films. He doesn't think it's a good vibe or good karma. So I don't know where that leaves me. I can understand that, but I've done it so many times. It's not intentional, but I know I'm high up in the death table. But they've all been quite memorable. It's a surprise when I survive. A quite nice surprise for me and, hopefully, for the audience as you always think I'm going to die.

Actually, we're a little shocked you managed to survive through the first season of "The Oath."

There was talk about me dying in it but they liked what they saw, what I was doing, and I think they decided to extend his life

a bit more.

Can we talk about your accent? It seems like many directors leave you alone.

Unless there's a reason to change it, I usually use how I speak now. Not too broad. If I spoke really broad Yorkshire, people might not understand what I'm saying. I kind of tone it down. It suits the characters that I play, many of them anyway. Certainly it suited Ned Stark. We did the read-through and the producers and directors and writers said, 'Just talk like that, Sean. What do you think?' I said, 'Yeah, all right. Good with me.' But then everybody who came after was part of the Stark family who had to adopt a Yorkshire accent.

Speaking of "Game of Thrones," we know Stark had a swift and grisly end. But have you noticed that your story line is still the dominant one? Does that please you?

I'm glad they remember me and am mentioned because it leaves a legacy. It's wonderful to be still mentioned because the character made such a big impact in the first season. He was one of a very few good men. They're all such backstabbers, poisonous people. He kind of stood out as a man with principles and morals and a good heart. A strong, confident man. That's probably one of the reasons he didn't survive. He wasn't devilish enough.

Rihanna responds to ad asking if you'd rather slap her or punch Chris Brown: 'Shame on you'

From wire reports

Rihanna just called out Snapchat for an insensitive ad that brought "shame" to survivors and victims of domestic violence.

The 30-year-old singer, who was physically assaulted by ex Chris Brown in 2009, shared a statement to her Instagram account after Snapchat posted a controversial ad that asked if users would rather "Slap Rihanna" or "Punch Chris Brown."

"I'm just trying to figure out what the point was with this mess. I'd love to call it ignorance, but I know you ain't that dumb," she wrote. "You spent money to animate something that would intentionally bring shame to DV (domestic violence) victims and made a joke of it!!!"

Snapchat said in a statement Wednesday the ad was reviewed and approved "in error" and was

immediately removed once the company became aware the ad was circulating.

"We are sorry this happened," Snapchat said in a statement, but Rihanna said she wasn't accepting of the "app-ology."

"This isn't about my personal feelings ... but all the women, children and men that have been victims of DV in the past and especially the ones who haven't made it out ... you let us down! Shame on you," she wrote.

Danny Boyle says he's working on script

Danny Boyle says he's working on the script for the next James Bond movie.

The British director has been rumored to be at the top of the list to direct the 25th film in the spy action franchise. He says he's collaborating with John Hodge, who

wrote Boyle's "Trainspotting." Boyle says the two are "tinkering on a script at the moment." He says he can't offer more details.

MGM, which produces James Bond films, has not confirmed who will direct the next installment.

Boyle made the comments Wednesday.

Sheeran, Gaga, more to cover Elton John

Elton John's songs will be reworked by top artists including Ed Sheeran, Lady Gaga, Willie Nelson and Chris Stapleton.

John announced March 15 the April 6 release of two albums. "Revamp" will include covers by pop and rock stars from Mary J. Blige to Miley Cyrus. Miranda Lambert and Dolly Parton will appear on the country album "Restoration."

Pink and Logic will team up for

"Bennie and the Jets," and Florence + the Machine take on "Tiny Dancer." Other acts on "Revamp" include Sam Smith, Coldplay, The Killers, Mumford and Sons, Q-Tip, Demi Lovato, Queens of the Stone Age and Alessia Cara.

"Restoration" features artists including Rosanne Cash, Don Henley, Maren Morris, Kacey Musgraves and Brothers Osborne.

Azealia Banks lashes out while leaving court

Short-fused rapper Azealia Banks failed to show proof she finished six hours of anger management over the past year, dooming her opportunity to get her club bouncer biting case reduced to a violation on March 15.

The performer brought paperwork that said she was two hours shy of the requirement of

her Manhattan Criminal Court plea deal. That led prosecutors to object to her misdemeanor being dismissed in favor of a violation.

Judge Angela Badamo said Banks has to come back April 3 for prosecutors to sort out the discrepancy. Banks' lawyer Jess Berkowitz said he believed she actually was in compliance.

Banks' infamous temper flared as she left the courthouse. She insulted reporters and photographers following her to the street.

Other news

■ Comedian Wanda Sykes will host the 29th GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles on April 12.

■ Queen Elizabeth II has given her formal consent to the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. The prince and the American actress are to marry May 19.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EU reveals which US products may face tariffs

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Friday published a list of U.S. products it plans to introduce duties on if the 28-nation bloc is not exempted from President Donald Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs.

The list contains dozens of products including breakfast foods, kitchenware, clothing and footwear, washing machines, textiles, whiskey, motorcycles, boats and batteries.

They are worth around 2.8 billion euros (\$3.4 billion) in trade annually, but the list could grow to the equivalent of 6.4 billion euros once the full extent of the impact of U.S. tariffs is known.

The EU's executive commission, which negotiates trade matters on behalf of member countries, gave European industry stakeholders 10 days to object if they fear that any products targeted for "rebalancing" tariffs would hurt their business.

Trump announced that he was imposing tariffs of 25 percent on

imported steel and 10 percent on aluminum. He temporarily exempted big steel producers Canada and Mexico — provided they agree to renegotiate a North American trade deal to his satisfaction.

He said other countries could be spared as well if they can convince Washington that their exports don't threaten American industry. The tariffs are set to enter force this month.

The EU believes it too should be exempted and rejects Trump's assertion that the tariffs are needed

for national security and are simply protectionist measures. Most EU countries are U.S. allies in the world's biggest security organization, NATO.

EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström will hold talks this week with U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross.

Malmström met in Brussels March 10 with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to discuss the tariffs and the exemption procedures. She said she got "no immediate clarity on the

exact U.S. procedure."

That weekend, Trump argued that the U.S. has been abused economically by the EU, saying they were "wonderful countries who treat the U.S. very badly on trade."

The EU insists that it is committed to open, global trade and that Trump's tariffs are a protective measure to prop up U.S. industry which could undermine the global trading system. The bloc says a glut on steel markets is to blame.

US probes deaths caused by airbag failures in Hyundai, Kia cars

By TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

DETROIT — Air bags in some Hyundai and Kia cars failed to inflate in crashes, and four people are dead. Now the U.S. government's road safety agency wants to know why.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it's investigating problems that affect an estimated 425,000 cars made by the Korean automakers. The agency also is looking into whether the same problem could happen in vehicles made by other companies.

In documents posted on its website Saturday, the safety agency says the probe covers 2011 Hyundai Sonata midsize cars and 2012 and 2013 Kia Forte compacts. The agency says it has reports of six front-end crashes with significant damage to the cars. Four people died, and six were injured.

The agency has been traced to electrical circuit shorts in air bag control computers made by parts supplier ZF-TRW. The NHTSA now wants to know if other automakers used the same computer.

On Feb. 27, Hyundai recalled nearly 155,000 Sonatas due to air bag failures, which the company blamed on the short circuits. Hyundai's sister automaker Kia, which sells similar vehicles, has yet to issue a recall.

In a statement Saturday, Kia said it has not

confirmed any air bag nondeployments in its 2002-13 Kia Forte models arising from "the potential chip issue." The company said it will work with NHTSA investigators.

"Kia will act promptly to conduct a safety recall if it determines that a recall would be appropriate," the company said.

A consumer complaint cited in the NHTSA's investigation documents said Kia was informed of a crash near Oakland in which air bags failed to deploy, and a passenger was killed.

In October 2015, the complainant told the NHTSA that a 2012 Forte was involved in a serious front-end crash that occurred in July 2013. A passenger was killed, and the driver was injured. According to the complaint, Kia was notified, the air bag computer was tested, and it was "found not to be working."

Hyundai spokesman Jim Trainor said the problem occurred in rare high-speed head-on collisions that were off-center from the center of the vehicles. "It's very unusual to have that kind of collision," he said Saturday.

Dealers will consider offering loaner cars to owners until the problem can be repaired, he said.

"We certainly would do everything we can to help our customers," Trainor said.

Hyundai said in a statement that the air bag control circuitry was damaged in three crashes, and a fourth crash is under investigation.

ZF-TRW said in a statement that it is prevented by confidentiality agreements from identifying other automakers who bought its air bag control computers. The company said it is working with customers and supports the NHTSA investigation.

According to the NHTSA, Hyundai investigated and found the problem was "electrical overstress" in the computers. The company didn't have a fix developed at the time but said it was investigating the problem with ZF-TRW. Hyundai does not yet have a fix for the problem but said it expects the Sonata recall to start April 20. The problem also can stop the seat belts from tightening before a crash.

In the documents, the NHTSA said it understands that the Kia Fortes under investigation use similar air bag control computers made by ZF-TRW. The agency noted a 2016 recall involving more than 14 million Fiat Chrysler cars and SUVs that had a similar problem causing the air bags not to deploy. Agency documents show those vehicles had air bag computers made by ZF-TRW.

The agency says four crashes occurred in Sonatas and two happened in Fortes. One Forte crash happened in Canada. All six crashes were reported to the NHTSA between 2012 and 2017, but it was unclear when they occurred.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 19).....	\$1.2637
Dollar buys (March 19).....	69.7813
British pound (March 19).....	\$1.43
Japanese yen (March 19).....	103.00
South Korean won (March 19).....	1,044.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3770
British pound.....	\$1.3933
Canada (dollar).....	1.3079
China (Yuan).....	6.3249
Denmark (Krone).....	6.0639
Egypt (Pound).....	17.6165
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	\$1.2284/0.8141
Japan (Yen).....	106.06
Kuwait (Dinar).....	253.16
Israel (Sheqel).....	3.4575
South Korea (Won).....	1,044.00
Qatar (Riyal).....	3.64
Saudi (Riyal).....	3.64
Singapore (Dollar).....	1.3167
South Korea (Won).....	1,068.03
Switzerland (Franc).....	0.9521
Thailand (Baht).....	31.23
Turkey (New Lira).....	3.9095

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the Irish pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate.....	4.50
Discount rate.....	2.00
Federal funds market rate.....	1.42
3-month bill.....	1.42
30-year bond.....	3.08

WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erk Slavin, Europe & Mideast British Chief
slavin.erk@stripes.com
+41(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
+1(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Robert Reismann, reismann.robert@stripes.com
+41(0)631.3615.9150, DSN (314)583.9150

Europe

Van Rowell, rowell.van@stripes.com
+41(0)631.3615.9111, DSN (314)583.9111

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)229.3171
or by phone at 202.761.0902

CONTACT US

Washington

tel. +1(202) 761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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Tobias Naegle

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Inc. 45002, APO AF 96301-5002.

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OPINION

Why Putin treats Britain with disdain

By ANNE APPLEBAUM

The Washington Post

Londongrad is the nickname, not entirely affectionate, that wealthy Russians have bestowed upon Britain's capital. The term doesn't just designate a physical place, though many Russians do indeed live here. Londongrad is more properly a state of mind — encompassing not only the nonresident owners of large houses in Kensington but also the British institutions, banks, law firms, accountants, private schools, art galleries and even the Conservative Party fundraisers that have gone out of their way to accommodate them.

Londongrad can be a place of bizarre contrasts. A few years ago, I found myself standing on the sideline of a school's rugby pitch, watching small boys tackle one another in the mud. All around me were the green fields of England; cows were grazing in the middle distance. Huddled on the sidelines, a group of men — presumably parents of some of the small boys — were arguing loudly, in Russian, about large sums of money. Equally weird was a walk with friends in rural Hampshire, past the gates of a vast estate. Already registered to a company called Skymist Holdings, the house was in fact owned by Elena Baturina, a Russian business executive who became enormously rich while her husband, Yuri Luzhkov, was the mayor of Moscow. The locals knew the owner's identity because they had seen Luzhkov at the pub.

These incongruities were produced by a tacit deal. For two decades, the British establishment has agreed not to think too hard about where the Russians got their money

— how cash was stolen from the state, recycled in the West, then used to help bring Vladimir Putin and his ex-KGB colleagues to power. In return, the Russians spent a lot of that money in Britain, to the benefit of the British.

The relationship has, at times, been extraordinarily complicit. There was the 2006 London flotation of Rosneft, the oil company created from the stolen assets of another oil company, whose owner had been arrested and sent to prison in Siberia. The prospectus did actually warn potential purchasers of the risks: "Crime and corruption could create a difficult business climate in Russia." But the sale went forward, reaped rewards for those who arranged it and established a principle: Stolen goods can become legal as long as the London financial establishment approves.

Now, the relationship is at a low point. The British were shocked — or should I say "shocked, shocked" — to discover that Russian operatives treat all of Britain like Londongrad. For a second time, they appear to have used a dangerous chemical agent in an attempt to murder one of their compatriots on British soil. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Theresa May eloquently condemned Russia for its use of a "military-grade nerve agent," declared she would expel 23 Russian diplomats and charged that the Russian government has "demonstrated complete disdain for the gravity of these events."

But that means she doesn't understand the profundity of the problem — that the Russian government treats Britain with disdain because the Russian government thinks it has bought the British elite. Worse than that, it may be right. In the day of May's speech, Gazprom, the state-con-

trolled energy company that is the source of wealth for so many of Russia's leaders, issued an eight-year, nearly \$1 billion oil rubrod. The Russian Embassy sent out a tweet announcing that the Gazprom sale was oversubscribed and added a punline: "Business as usual?" On Friday, the Russian government itself sold \$7 billion worth of eurobonds.

That same afternoon, London police officials opened another murder investigation into the death of another Russian, this time a businessman and government critic. It is being reported that investigators have detected signs he may have been strangled.

On Sunday in Moscow, the regime reaffirmed its power, holding an election which exit polls late in the day said was won by Putin. All those events are connected. Our institutions, our banks, our tax havens have helped create this profoundly cynical regime in Moscow, one with no regard for its laws or political traditions. And we are still unable to see it.

In her parliamentary statement, the prime minister did leave open the possibility of harsher financial sanctions. But the real question for Britain — as well as France, Germany and the United States — is whether we are willing to end the financial relationship altogether.

We could outlaw tax havens in the Virgin Islands, as in Delaware and Nevada; we could make it impossible to buy property anonymously; we could ban Russian companies with dubious origins from our stock exchanges. But that would cost our own financiers and real estate agents, disrupt the discreet flow of cash into the coffers of political parties, deprive the art market of its big investors. Does May have the nerve to do that? Do any of us?

This 'year of the woman' feels different than '92

By KAREN TUMULTY

The Washington Post

The video begins with Democratic congressional candidate Sol Flores standing in her childhood bedroom in Chicago, recalling happy times when she decorated it with unicorns and rainbows and posters of her boy-band crushes.

Then Flores' narration takes a detour, into a dark family secret: "There was a man that was living with us that would come into my bedroom when I was asleep."

A convergence of the #MeToo movement and the political activism that ignited after President Donald Trump's election has inspired what appears to be a record number of women running for offices up and down the ballot this year. These are not just career politicians climbing the next step on the ladder but newly energized activists who say running for office never occurred to them until the last election.

And here is what is even more surprising about this crop of female candidates: Many are speaking openly about painful, personal experiences with sexual abuse and harassment.

In 1992, the last time there was talk of an election being a "year of the woman," it was in large measure because the confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas drew screaming harassment to the forefront. Back then, though, it was still taboo for female candidates to talk about their own encounters with the problem.

I remember the sense everyone felt in 1992 that nothing would ever be the same for women, that their voices would only grow stronger and louder. But joining the club in those days was living by its rules.

This time feels different. Now, the expe-

rience of suffering sexual harassment or assault has been transformed into a way to connect, particularly for the Democratic contenders who have become the vanguard of the resistance movement. What once was a private shame is now a selling point.

Flores, the founder of a Chicago nonprofit that serves homeless youth, said that after she went public with her story of being molested as a child, she heard from Sara Freeman, a Democratic Minnesota state house contender who had never openly spoken of recovery from being raped at gunpoint two decades ago.

Democrat Mary Barzee Flores, a former circuit court judge running for Congress in Florida, has talked of being groped by the night manager of a Pizza Hut where she worked when she was a teenager. As a lawyer, Flores said, she encountered "a judge who made a crack about my looks on my very first day in court."

In Maryland, Democratic state Sen. Cheryl Kagan this month accused lobbyist Gil Genn of running his hand down her back and onto her buttocks in a crowded pub. Now, the two are arguing over whether the brief physical contact revealed by security camera footage of the event constitutes inappropriate conduct. The tape does appear to show that his initial insistence that he had not touched her at all was false.

Previous generations of female politicians kept these kinds of experiences to themselves.

"Absolutely no one would dare do a #MeToo then, although we talked in private about who to watch out for and never get in an elevator with," recalled former Democratic Rep. Pat Schroeder, of Colorado, who ran briefly for her party's 1988 presidential nomination and who was not known for

being timid. "They felt vulnerable, and if they talked about it, they became even more vulnerable."

That remained true even in the explosion of female candidates after the Thomas hearings. "Part of that was we all saw how Anita Hill was treated" by the all-white, all-male Senate Judiciary Committee, Schroeder said. "They just dumped all over her and got away with it. We all internalized it."

No anymore.

Life experiences, by themselves, qualify anyone for public office. And there is even a danger that they will become a distraction from other issues.

"I've sort of been pigeonholed into one issue. I'm just the #MeToo candidate," complained Freeman, a former investment banker who says her top priority if elected would be improving Minnesota's public schools.

But, she adds, at a moment of awakened sensitivity to sexual transgressions, "these conversations are just too important not to be having."

There is no small irony in the fact that all of this, while long overdue, might not be happening had the nation elected its first female president in 2016.

Instead, a man credibly accused of sexual misconduct by more than a dozen women sits in the Oval Office.

The old feminist mantra had it that the personal is political. In the #MeToo era, that connection is being forged more directly than ever, one story at a time. But while laying bare what was once kept secret may ultimately produce a healthier culture in politics, what voters will want to know is how all of this is going to change their lives.

OPINION

So much of consoling is in what isn't said

By HANNAH ROSE

Special to The Baltimore Sun

Young adults overdosing from heroin is not a new phenomenon; it has existed for decades. The recent influx of fentanyl-laced heroin, however, has been leading to a massive increase in the frequency of overdoses. The last two years of my life have been riddled with the deaths of friends.

In January of 2017, my boyfriend's best friend passed away from an overdose. I remember racking my brain every night to figure out how I could take away his pain — what I could say to make it better, what I could say to ease the grief.

I have read time and again in spiritual or wellness literature about empathy being a process that involves putting ourselves in the other person's shoes and allowing ourselves to connect with the thing in us that understands their pain. I have constructed lectures around healthy communication and the empathic process, yet when it was my turn to practice empathy, it was incredibly difficult.

I felt powerless over someone else's pain and like I didn't have a purpose if I couldn't make them feel better at that moment. I felt frustrated at not knowing that perfect thing to say.

Then it occurred to me: What if there

is nothing we could possibly say to make their pain go away? What if we miss our opportunities for genuine empathy by trying to "fix" someone else's emotional pain or quicken the grieving process?

"Rarely can a response make something better; what makes something better is connection," said Brené Brown, a research professor at the University of Houston who studies empathy.

All I needed to do was show up and listen — and become comfortable with the silence of not being able to fully understand his pain in that moment.

If you love someone who is currently in emotional pain or grieving, it's natural to want to make their pain go away. But you cannot take that process away from them. And if you could, it would be a disservice to that person and their emotional growth.

We grow through pain. We cultivate resilience through walking directly into the pain and coming out on the other side.

So, what if instead of avoiding someone because you know you can't "make it better" or "say the right thing," you simply show up and hold space for their emotional experience?

I'll never forget when a friend of mine was grieving because his brother had just overdosed and died. I was a few days into a new job at a hospital, the same one where his brother had been on life support.



NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/AP

Family members of a passenger of a plane crash console each other outside a hospital in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Tuesday.

I reached out to this friend and met him outside while he smoked a cigarette. I stood with him, not saying a word, while he spoke about his brother, cried and eventually stood in silence himself.

The silence contained more emotion and

meaning than anything I could have possibly said to him. The reality is that I had not experienced the same amount of pain, and that was OK. I chose to throw away my arsenal of spiritual and positive quotes about "time healing all wounds" and his brother being "in a better place now" and the rest of those things we say just to say in the wake of grief.

I don't know if his brother is in a better place.

I didn't think his death was "supposed" to happen.

And I know that if I was grieving, those would be the last things I wanted to hear.

It's OK to not know.

This friend thanked me for reaching out and standing with him outside of the hospital, remarking that many of his friends hadn't contacted him because they didn't know what to say.

I understand that now.

Because there is nothing to say.

But we should still show up.

So if you love someone who is grieving, know that you are doing everything you can do by simply being there. By listening, holding space, and allowing yourself to be silent with vulnerability between you.

It will make a difference.

It has made a difference to me.

Hannah Rose is a clinical mental health counselor.

New task force eyed for merging exchanges, DeCA

By TOM PHILPOTT

Special to Stars and Stripes

The three military exchange services and the Defense Commissary Agency would be merged into a single resale enterprise under a proposal backed by John H. Gibson II, the Defense Department's new chief management officer, who has been tasked to make DOD business operations more efficient.

Gibson and a team tasked with reviewing military community services — base stores, recreation services, family support services and base schools — have drafted a memorandum, apparently for signature by Deputy Defense Secretary Patrick M. Shanahan, that would order extensive streamlining.

If and when signed, the memo would have the Department of Defense under President Donald Trump reconsider, and likely reverse, an Obama administration decision of two years ago not to consolidate DeCA with Army and Air Force Exchange Service and the exchange services run by the Navy and Marine Corps.

"Because of their different approaches to the same specific issues, the services are providing different benefits, the creation of a single resale entity through consolidation is not recommended," DOD officials wrote in a May 2016 report to Congress on prospects for operating commissaries without cost to taxpayers.

The report approved the study on the short-term goal of achieving greater efficiency in the operation of commissaries and exchanges, and to defer consideration of the feasibility of any merger until these issues have been effectively addressed."

This administration, however, isn't waiting. The departments of Army, Navy and Air Force were given only a few days in mid-March to share their views on the consolidation for resale operations presented in the draft memorandum.

Sources said the services are concerned about the timing of a complex consolidation, given current chaotic transition of DeCA into an exchange-like profitable

MILITARY UPDATE

enterprise, using variable pricing of items by region and introducing higher margin DeCA brands. Brokers and manufacturers supporting base stores say the changes are aggravating an already sharp decline in commissary sales.

Exchange store operators see their own patron traffic as linked to base grocery stores, so as commissary sales fall so too do sales at exchanges, gas stations and other on-base retailers. Declining exchange sales mean lower profits, or "dividends," which the services rely on to fund on-base MWR or morale, welfare and recreation activities.

A Defense Department spokesman said no official could be made available to discuss the draft memo or concepts it embraces for store system consolidation for at least a few more weeks. Officials wouldn't even provide written answers to questions, suggesting the time wasn't right.

Gibson backed the DOD chief management officer Feb. 1. He told the Senate Budget Committee the department had formed nine project teams to draft recommendations to reform business operations to achieve near-term efficiencies.

Stacey Kiley, a Senior Executive Service employee who led the Defense Resale Business Optimization Board, has led the team tasked with reviewing community services. The draft memo explains that, after receiving team briefings, the department's Reform Management Group, which Gibson leads, "acknowledged that the defense resale enterprise, in particular, has been 'beached' without recommendations being implemented. As a result, military stores now suffer from 'the same industry, generation and demographic trends negatively impacting private sector grocery and retail companies.'"

The team proposes that phased consolidation of DeCA and exchange services offers "the greatest potential to achieve

the economies and efficiencies necessary for the survivability of the defense resale enterprise."

The draft memo acknowledges that current law prohibits consolidating the commissary system with the exchanges so legislative relief would be sought "as soon as practicable." Meanwhile, the team is to "assemble a cross-functional task force" no later than May 1, 2018, and to identify by April 15 a director to manage its work. This task force is to conduct "due diligence, assess the business case and develop integration plans" for DeCA and exchange services by Oct. 31.

The task force is to brief the Reform Management Group "upon business case completion." If it confirms the team's approach, "consolidation shall be executed immediately by the task force director" who will serve "as the new organization's Executive Director, exercising authority, direction and control, until the permanent position is advertised and filled."

In other words, said one critic who reviewed the memo, the person leading the task force becomes director of the organization it proposes to create — if the task force makes the appropriate business case to justify it.

"This thing is toxic. It's putting the cart before the horse," the official said.

Even if the business case for consolidating systems is not confirmed, military resale "will benefit from the standardization of its back-office processes and systems," the draft memo says. "Therefore, in parallel with its other work, the task force shall begin standardizing those processes," beginning with financial management and accounting processes. To ensure proper focus on standardization, the draft memo says on the date it is signed, store systems are to freeze work on modernizing information technology and suspend executive hiring.

"The success of this reform requires complete faith and active support of our decisions," the memo concludes. "Therefore, all must know and believe that our intentions are to make these community

families better for our members and their families, improve our support to commanders, be exceptional stewards of our appropriated funds and exhibit fiduciary responsibility" over resale profits.

One exchange official grumbled that this last paragraph was particularly odd, a warning perhaps not to make familiar arguments to Congress, patrons or other stakeholders for protecting the status quo.

Consolidation of commissaries and exchange services has been studied for decades, with 11 major reports produced just since 1989. Congress finally agreed in 2016 to give DOD officials sweeping new authorities to transform commissaries into more business-like operations and to reduce DeCA's reliance on taxpayer funding, which last year and this still stood at \$1.3 billion annually.

In the first year of transformation, however, commissary sales continued a five-year decline. Even if, arguably, the rate of decline has slowed, it remains a dangerous trend that had put the entire military resale system in jeopardy.

Congressional committees that oversee military resale are monitoring sales closely. Two congressional staffers said they haven't seen the DOD's new ideas on consolidating systems but noted any merging would require changes to law.

They added that Congress allowed commissary reforms only on condition that savings to patrons be maintained and that revenues from exchange operations to support on-base morale, welfare and recreation activities not be reduced.

Those are the conditions set by law, they added. That means that while Congress encourages efficient on-base store operations, current law requires that reforms be rolled back if the value of the shopping benefit can't be preserved for patrons or if exchange profits, so critical to on-base quality of life, fall victim to the changes.

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; Twitter: @Military_Update.

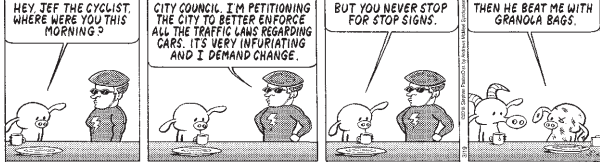
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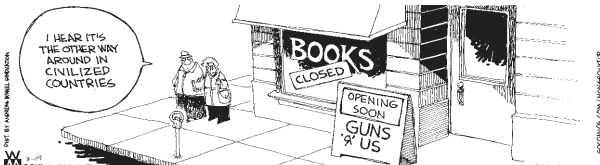
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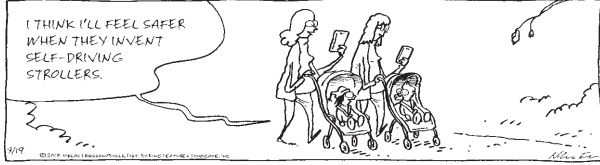
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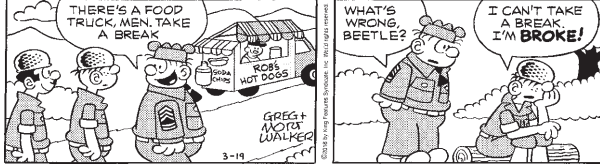
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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59				60					61		

ACROSS

- Male turkey
- Existed
- Tiny branch
- Acknowledge
- List-ending abbr.
- Basketball target
- Nevada city
- Fluffy scarf
- Billions of years
- Bull's sound
- Oxen's burden
- Spionage maker
- Excessively proper
- Solar event
- Chalkboard
- Apollo 11 destination
- Day divs.
- Sketch
- Grammarian's concern
- Chess plays
- Moves like a crab
- Thee, today
- Radius neighbor
- Perfectly timed
- Utah national park
- Diamond arbiter
- Corn castoffs
- Apple computer
- "For shame!"
- Dickens' Uriah
- Ancient invader

DOWN

- Old salts
- Pizzeria fixture
- Stereo alternative
- Charlotte's creation
- On
- Overcharge for tickets
- 1969 Sam Peckinpah Western
- Romance
- Charged bit
- Family docs
- Midday meal with the boss, perhaps
- Bit of advice
- Hosp. areas
- Blond shade
- Rani's wrap
- Sports figure?
- Evergreens
- Outback birds
- "fan tulle"
- Cargo
- Work unit
- Utter
- Slithery fish
- Cattle call
- Tobacco type
- During
- Dorm designation
- Taxi alternative
- Catch sight of
- Sharp turn
- "As I see it," in a text
- Granola morsel
- For each

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	N	U	S	B	E	T	A	S
S	I	M	I	L	E	P	O	C	H
O	C	U	L	A	R	S	P	A	T
S	A	L	I	N	E	S	U	S	E
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3-19

CRYPTOQUIP

JQVFRVZ RINHQGRW UG UXO

EQINSTXRZ JYQ SVR ZFXHHRW

SB SNNVSXZXTO BYXTOZ:

EQVNQVSBR VSBRVZ.

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Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals R


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Automotive 140

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SOCCER/HIGH SCHOOL:DODEA PACIFIC

Morocco's bid: \$16B needed for World Cup

By ROB HARRIS
Associated Press

Morocco would need to spend almost \$16 billion to prepare to host the 2026 World Cup, with every proposed stadium and training ground built from scratch or renovated, the bid said Saturday.

With less than three months to go until the FIFA vote, the North African nation presented the first significant details of its proposal to take on the joint bid from the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The North American bid plans to rely on existing infrastructure, including large NFL stadiums already hosting events.

For the first time, a high-risk bid that does not meet FIFA's expectations on facilities and profit can be disqualified before the governing body's congress votes on June 13.

When FIFA officials score the bids, infrastructure — of which half relates to stadiums — will account for 70 percent of the panel's mark. The remaining 30 percent is based on projected costs and revenues.

For \$3 billion, Morocco said it can build nine stadiums, refurbish five others and build or renovate 130 training grounds. That is part of the \$12.6 billion in public investment that also requires hospital services being upgraded in 20 cities and transport networks improved for the World Cup after the jump from 32 to 48 participating nations.

The bid said another \$3.2 billion of private investment is required to build hotels containing around 30,000 rooms.

Morocco's bid team told The Associated Press the projections had been "carefully costed" but could not provide a breakdown on how the figures were reached.

Nine new stadiums are planned, including a 93,000-capacity home for the national team in Casablanca that would stage the opening game and final in 2026.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

Kubasaki splits baseball series

Stars and Stripes

Things went well for Kubasaki baseball, at least on Friday, the first day of a two-day road trip. That was before Saturday, when the Dragons ran into a familiar nemesis, four-time defending Far East Division I Tournament champion American School in Japan.

Kyle Powell just missed a no-hitter in the Dragons' 6-1 win over Kinnick, and Samuel Williamson and Camron McCall each had two RBIs in a 4-1 victory over Yokota on Friday at Yokota Park.

But at Mustang Valley the next morning, ASU quickly broke out of the gate in each game of a doubleheader, then held off late Dragons rallies to sweep the twin bill 7-5 and 5-2.

"They're definitely still the team to beat," Dragons coach Randy Toor said of the Mustangs' D-I chances. "They have good young players, some young arms, they're hard and they put the ball in play. They don't strike out much. They're very patient and selective with pitches."

Errors didn't help the Dragons, who committed three in the opener and one in the nightcap.

"The first three or four innings, we really weren't there. We came out flat. You can't do that with a team like that," Toor said.

Things went much better for the Dragons on Friday, when Powell combined with Adam Garlick's 3-for-3 performance with two RBIs against Kinnick, and Jon Palmer got the win in relief to couple with Williamson's and McCall's run production in the win over Yokota.

Kadena: Panthers girls soccer remained unbeaten at 6-0, getting a 5-0 shutout over Naha Commercial High School on Saturday. Phoebe Bills led the attack with two goals, giving her five on the season, while Adrianna Gomez got her 11th goal plus two assists.

Yokota: Though the Panthers boys' soccer team lost twice to Chadwick International, including 3-0 in Saturday's final, Yokota learned some things from the Matthew C. Perry Cup Tournament, coach Trent Anderson said. "This will really help us as we move forward."



JASMINE LITTON/Special to Stars and Stripes

Daegu's Elijah Bembischew is tagged out by Humphreys catcher Owen Williams during Saturday's DODEA Korea season-opening double header at Camp Henry. The Warriors swept the games 12-2 and 5-4.

Zama: Like father, like daughter. Freshman Merdean Duarte, daughter of Trojans girls soccer coach Manny Duarte, enjoyed a break-out game Saturday, scoring five times as Zama routed Seisen 7-1. The Trojans improved to 6-2 on the season.

Edgren: Eagles baseball appeared to be on the shelf three weeks ago, but coach Brett Lehner says the team now has enough players to move ahead with a season. They played twice at Yokota on Saturday, losing 10-0 and 16-1. They next host Zama on Friday and Saturday.

E.J. King: Gabi Shultz scored once on Friday and twice on Saturday to help Cobras girls soccer to a week-end split of matches with M.C. Perry. King edged the Samurai 2-1 on Saturday, after losing 4-1 on Friday. Shultz has nine goals this season for the 3-5 Cobras.

M.C. Perry: Garrett Macias struck out eight in three innings, homered and drove in five runs as the Samurai routed King 21-2, salvaging a split of a two-game series at Sasebo Naval Base. The Cobras edged Perry 7-5 on Friday.

Kinnick: The three-time defending Far East D-I track champion Red Devils picked up where they left off last season. The boys and girls topped the team standings at Saturday's season-opening meet at Yokota. The boys beat American School in Japan 186½-118½ and the girls did likewise 214½-114.

Seoul Americans: Senior Alyse Neal remained in good position to top the northwest Pacific long jump record. On Saturday, she matched her best distance in last spring's Far East meet, jumping a meet-record 5.3 meters. The region record is 5.42 set in 2006 by Amelia Clark of Jakarta International.

Humphreys: Blackhawks track and field similarly soared to a school first — the boys and girls teams each topping the standings in a single meet on the same day. Humphreys boys downed Yong-sun 175-117 and the girls edged Seoul American 177-174.

Daegu: Senior Neena Ibit proved nearly impenetrable in net for Warriors girls soccer over the weekend, stopping 30 of 32 shots in two matches. Daegu played Taejon Christian to a scoreless draw on Saturday, hours after falling 2-0 to Yong-sun.

Osan: It was a struggle, but Cougars girls soccer remained unbeaten at 4-0, beating Taejon Christian on Friday and Yong-sun on Saturday by identical 3-2 scores. Elizabeth White scored three for Osan, giving her seven on the season, and Jana Rafi added her fourth and fifth goals.



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NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS



K.C. ALFRED, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

Running back Danny Woodhead announced his retirement on Saturday morning in an Instagram post. The 5-foot-8, 204-pound Woodhead had 2,238 yards rushing and 15 touchdowns, along with 300 catches for 2,698 yards and 17 scores over 10 seasons playing for the New York Jets, New England Patriots, San Diego Chargers and Baltimore Ravens.

Briefly

Versatile RB Woodhead retiring

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Danny Woodhead went from undersized and undrafted to big-time playmaker in 10 NFL seasons.

The versatile running back announced his retirement from playing in a humble and heartfelt post on Instagram early Saturday.

"10 years!" Woodhead wrote. "Wow, God had crazy plans for a small little kid from North Platte, NE! It's been a wild ride and feel so blessed He allowed me to do what I loved for so long. But now it's time to say goodbye to the game I love."

The 33-year-old Woodhead is also a devout Christian who leaned on his faith during the ups and downs of what became a successful NFL career. "All I had to do was follow His plans for my life," Woodhead wrote, "and His plans were crazy awesome!"

Woodhead was a two-time Harlon Hill Trophy winner at Chadron State in Nebraska as the top player in NCAA Division II. Despite his college success, he went undrafted in 2008 and signed with the Jets as a free agent.

Already a longshot to make the roster, Woodhead suffered a serious knee injury during a training camp practice and spent his entire rookie season on injured reserve. He recovered in time for camp the next summer and became a fan favorite as one of the Jets' featured players on HBO's "Hard Knocks." Woodhead made his NFL regular-season debut midway through the 2009 season.

Seattle signs WR Brown, S Alexander

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks added depth at both wide receiver and in the secondary by signing wide receiver Jaron Brown and safety Maurice Alexander.

Seattle announced both of the signings on Saturday. Brown spent all five of his NFL seasons with the Arizona Cardinals, while Alexander is joining the Seahawks after parts of four seasons with the Rams.

Dallas releases 10-year vet Scandrick

FRISCO, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys have released 10-year veteran cornerback Orlando Scandrick, another move toward getting younger in the secondary.

Scandrick had asked for a release that the Cowboys made official with Saturday's move. The post-June 1 designation gives Dallas \$3 million in salary cap space this season with a \$1.6 million cap charge in 2019.

The 31-year-old was a fifth-round pick by the Cowboys in 2008 and had eight interceptions in 125 games.

Pats add Clayborn, Hill in free agency

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots bolstered their pass rush and backfield depth with the free agent signings of defensive end Adrian Clayborn and running back Jeremy Hill on Saturday.

The Patriots also announced the signing of veteran offensive tackle Matt Tobin.

The addition of Tobin adds depth to a Patriots' offensive line that lost long-time starting left tackle Nate Solder to the New York Giants in free agency.

Sports briefs

Nickal's pin clinches title for Penn State

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Bo Nickal reversed an early attack from Ohio State's Myles Martin and spun him on his back for a first-period pin that clinched Penn State's seventh team title in eight years at the NCAA Wrestling Championships on Saturday.

Nickal won his second-straight title at 184 pounds and joined Zain Retherford (149 pounds) Jason Nolf (157), Vincenzo Joseph (165) as repeat champions for the Nittany Lions, who pulled away to beat the Buckeyes 141.5-133.5.

Iowa finished third with 97 points while Michigan and NC State tied for fourth with 80 points. Missouri was sixth with 61.5.

Logano cruises to Xfinity win at Fontana

FONTANA, Calif. — Joey Logano cruised to his first NASCAR Xfinity Series victory of the season on Saturday, outpacing Justin Allgaier at Fontana.

Logano pushed his Team Penske Ford to his 29th career Xfinity victory and his third at Auto Club Speedway. The dominant win also was the first Xfinity victory at Auto Club Speedway for the team backed by Roger Penske, who spearheaded the construction of this 21-year-old track east of Los Angeles.

"That car was so good," Logano said. "It was one of those races where you're relieved when you win. You're supposed to win when you've got a car that fast."

A series of cautions led to a choppy race governed by tire quality and restarts, but Logano was in command of almost every big moment.

Logano took the lead on the first lap and won the first two stages, never even relinquishing his lead until late, when he fell behind Elliott Sadler out of a restart. Logano moved up from 16th and reclaimed the lead in a mere three-lap stretch, and he jumped in front again with a beautiful restart after the final caution with eight laps to go.

Stenson takes 1-shot lead; Woods 5 back

ORLANDO, Fla. — Henrik Stenson did just enough right for a 1-under 71 to take the lead at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Stenson mixed birdies and bogeys on a warm afternoon and goes into the final round with a one-shot lead for the second time in four years at Bay Hill, where he has never won.

Tiger Woods goes into Sunday with another shot at winning. He made another bold play on the par-5 16th to set up a birdie, made a 12-foot birdie on the 18th and shot 69. He was five back.

Ramirez beats Imam to win 140-pound title

NEW YORK — Jose Ramirez won his first world title Saturday night with a unanimous decision victory over Amir Imam to win the WBC's vacant 140-pound belt.

Ramirez pulled away in the late rounds, swelling Imam's right eye in the process to take the title.

Ramirez, a 2012 U.S. Olympian, won by scores of 120-108, 117-111 and 115-113. He improved to 22-0 with 16 knockouts.

Athletics pitcher Cotton to miss 2018 season

MESA, Ariz. — Oakland Athletics pitcher Jharel Cotton will undergo season-ending surgery on his right elbow.

Cotton is expected to undergo Tommy John surgery next week.

The 26-year-old Cotton was expected to be in Oakland's starting rotation this season after going 9-10 with a 5.58 ERA average in 24 starts as a rookie in 2017.

Also:

■ New York Mets left-hander Jason Vargas is expected to miss four to six weeks after fracturing a bone in his right hand.

The Mets acquired Vargas in free agency, signing him to a two-year, \$16 million contract. He went 18-11 with a 4.16 ERA for Kansas City last season.



DAVID DENNER/AP

Penn State's Bo Nickal, top, controls Ohio State's Myles Martin during the 184-pound championship match of the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships on Saturday in Cleveland.

WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT ROUNDUP



TONY AVELAR/AP

Florida Gulf Coast guard China Dow reacts after being fouled against Missouri during the second half of a first-round game in Stanford, Calif., on Saturday. Dow scored 21 points in the upset victory.

Scoreboard

Albany Regional	
First Round	Friday
At Columbia, S.C.	Virginia 68, California 62
At Storrs, Conn.	South Carolina 63, N.C. A&T 52
Sunday, March 17	UConn 140, Saint Francis (Pa.) 52
At Storrs, Conn.	Quinnipiac 66, Miami 72
At Athens, Ga.	Duke 72, Belmont 58
At Tallahassee, Fla.	Georgia 68, Mercer 63
Florida State 91, Little Rock 49	
Buffalo 102, South Florida 79	
Second Round	
Sunday, March 18	At Columbia, S.C.
Virginia (19-15) vs. South Carolina (27-6)	
Monday, March 19	
At Storrs, Conn.	UConn (33-0) vs. Quinnipiac (28-5)
At Athens, Ga.	Duke (23-8) vs. Georgia (26-6)
At Tallahassee, Fla.	Buffalo (28-5) vs. Florida State (26-6)

Spokane Regional	
First Round	Friday, March 16
At Notre Dame, Ind.	Notre Dame 99, Cal State Northridge 87
At Villanova 81, South Dakota State 74, OT	
At College Station, Texas	
DePaul 90, Oklahoma 79	
Texas A&M 89, Drake 76	
At Eugene, Ore.	Minnesota 89, Green Bay 77
Oregon 88, Seattle 45	
Saturday, March 17	
At Columbus, Ohio	Central Michigan 78, LSU 69
Ohio State 87, George Washington 45	
Second Round	
Sunday, March 18	At Notre Dame, Ind.
Notre Dame (30-3) vs. Villanova (23-8)	
At College Station, Texas	DePaul (27-7) vs. Texas A&M (25-9)
At Eugene, Ore.	Minnesota (24-9) vs. Oregon (31-4)
Monday, March 19	
At Columbus, Ohio	Central Michigan (29-4) vs. Ohio State (28-6)

Kansas City Regional	
First Round	Friday, March 16
At Raleigh, N.C.	Maryland 77, Princeton 57
NC State 62, Elon 34	
Saturday, March 17	
At Starkville, Miss.	Oklahoma State 94, Syracuse 57
Mississippi State 95, Nicholls 50	
At Los Angeles	
UCLA 71, American 60	
Creighton 75, Iowa 70	
At Austin, Texas	Arizona State 73, Nebraska 62
Texas 83, Maine 54	
Second Round	
Sunday, March 18	At Raleigh, N.C.
Maryland (25-7) vs. NC State (25-8)	
Monday, March 19	
At Starkville, Miss.	Mississippi State (33-1) vs. Oklahoma State (21-10)
At Los Angeles	
Creighton (19-12) vs. UCLA (25-7)	
At Austin, Texas	Arizona State (22-12) vs. Texas (27-6)

Lexington Regional	
First Round	Friday, March 16
At Waco, Texas	Michigan 75, Northern Colorado 61
At Louisville, Ky.	Boise State 42, Marquette 84, Dayton 65
At Knoxville, Tenn.	Florida Gulf Coast 89, Missouri 70
Oregon State 82, Western Kentucky 58	
Tennessee 100, Liberty 60	
At Waco, Texas	
Michigan 75, Northern Colorado 61	
At Louisville, Ky.	Boise State 42, Marquette 84, Dayton 65
Saturday, March 17	
At Knoxville, Tenn.	Florida Gulf Coast 89, Missouri 70
Oregon State 82, Western Kentucky 58	
Second Round	
Sunday, March 18	At Louisville, Ky.
Louisville (33-2) vs. Marquette (24-9)	
At Knoxville, Tenn.	Florida Gulf Coast 89, Missouri 70
Oregon State (24-7) vs. Tennessee (25-7)	
At Waco, Texas	
Michigan (23-9) vs. Baylor (32-1)	
Monday, March 19	
At Stanford, Calif.	Florida Gulf Coast (31-4) vs. Stanford (23-10)

UConn rolls to records; six high seeds advance

Associated Press

It was a record day for the UConn Huskies and a banner opening round for double-digit seeds.

The top-seeded Huskies rolled to a half dozen new records in the 140-52 win over Saint Francis (Pa.) that got the second day of the opening round started. UConn set a record for points in a tournament game and all-time NCAA records for points in a period (55 in the first) and a half (94 in the first). And UConn's 88-point margin of victory was the second-biggest in tournament history. Baylor beat Texas Southern by 89 in the 2017 tournament.

While the NEC representative fell, six double-digit seeds advance to the second round for the first time since 2000. Only one of those teams that year made it to the Sweet 16.

Albany Regional

No. 1 UConn 140, No. 16 Saint Francis (Pa.) 52: At Storrs, Conn., Azura Stevens scored 26 points to lead six Huskies in double figures.

No. 3 Florida State 91, No. 14 Little Rock 49: Shakalya Thomas scored 26 points for host Florida State.

The Seminoles (26-6), who were 35-for-60 from the field, put the game out of reach by going on a 23-0 run during an 8-minute span in the second and third quarters.

No. 4 Georgia 68, No. 13 Mercer 63: Caliya Robinson had 23 points and 16 rebounds, Mackenzie Ingram added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and host Georgia held off Mercer.

Kahlia Lawrence scored 23 points and KeKe Calloway had 15 for No. 13 seed Mercer (30-3).

No. 5 Duke 72, No. 12 Belmont 58: At Athens, Ga., Leonora Odom scored a career-high 25 points, including nine in Duke's dominant third period, and the Blue Devils beat Belmont.

Duke (23-8) led only 32-31 at halftime before outscoring Belmont 21-9 in the third period.

Kylie Smith scored 20 points to lead Belmont (31-4), which saw its 22-game winning streak end. **No. 11 Buffalo 102, No. 6 South Florida 79:** Cierra Dillard scored a career-high 36 points and Buffalo got its first NCAA Tournament victory, and it is the first time that a Mid-American Conference team scored more than 100 points in an NCAA Tournament game.

Buffalo (28-5) was 14-for-27 from the three-point line, including 7-for-13 from Dillard.

No. 9 Quinnipiac 86, No. 8 Miami 72: At Storrs, Conn., Jen Pay led a balanced offense with 19 points and Bobcats eliminated the Hurricanes from the tournament for a second consecutive season.

Paula Strautmane added 15 points and Edel Thornton and Carly Fabbri each had 14 for Quinnipiac (28-5), which extended its winning streak to 23 games, a new school record.

Spokane Regional

No. 3 Ohio State 87, No. 14 George Washington 45: Stephanie Mavunga scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds as the host Buckeyes rolled.

Alexa Hart had 12 points and Kelsey Mitchell added 11 points and seven rebounds as Ohio State (28-6) never trailed.

No. 11 Central Michigan 78, No. 6 LSU 69: Tinara Moore scored 25 points to help Central Michigan get its first women's NCAA Tournament win, beating LSU.

The Chippewas, who had lost in their first three trips to the NAACAs, got in the tournament for the first time in five years by upsetting Buffalo in the Mid-American Conference Tournament.

Moore and Central Michigan dominated inside, outrebounding the Southeastern Conference team 40-27 and creating more second chances. Reyna Frost 12 points and 12 boards for the Chippewas before fouling out late in the game.

Kansas City Regional

No. 1 Mississippi State 95, No. 16 Nicholls 50: Victoria Vivians scored 20 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead host Mississippi State past Nicholls.

The Bulldogs (33-1) started the game slowly, but scored 33 points in the second quarter to take a 54-24 lead into halftime and eventually cruise to the win.

No. 2 Texas 83, No. 15 Maine 54: Jatarie White scored 17 points and the host Longhorns used an overwhelming first half to romp to a win over Maine.

Hosting the first two rounds for the third consecutive year, Texas smothered the America East Conference tournament champions from the opening tip. Texas (27-6) led 45-18 by halftime with a combination of dominant rebounding and speed in transition led by guards Lashann Higgs and Brooke McCarty. Higgs scored 15 and Ariel Atkins scored 16.

No. 3 UCLA 71, No. 14 American 60: At Los Angeles, Monique Billings scored 20 points and had 10 rebounds, Kennedy Burke added 15 points to lead the Bruins (25-7).

No. 11 Creighton 76, No. 6 Iowa 70: At Los Angeles, Jaylyn Agnew scored 24 points and Sydney Lamberty added 20 to lead the Bluejays (19-12) to an upset.

Agnew and Lamberty combined to make 16 of 26 shots. **No. 7 Arizona State 73, No. 10 Nebraska 62:** At Austin,



TONY DEAR/AP

Central Michigan's Tinara Moore, left, and Kyra Bussell celebrate after beating LSU in a first-round game on Saturday

Texas, Robbi Ryan scored 16 points and Kianna Ibis added 14 to lead the Sun Devils.

Arizona State moves on to the second round for the fifth straight season with a chance to make the Sweet 16 for the second time in four years.

No. 9 Oklahoma State 84, No. 8 Syracuse 57: At Starkville, Miss., freshman Jaden Hobbs scored a career-high 27 points, Loryn Goodwin and Kaylee Jensen each had 19 for the Cowgirls.

The 5-foot-8 Hobbs made eight of nine three-point attempts, blowing the game open single-handedly by making four threes in quick succession late in the third quarter.

Lexington Regional

No. 4 Stanford 82, No. 13 Gonzaga 68: Alanna Smith scored 20 points, freshman Kiana Williams made a sensational NCAA Tournament debut, and the host Cardinal beat cold-shooting Gonzaga.

Stanford (23-10) used a 9-0 run late in the third to pull away and overcame a tough shooting performance by Brittany McPhee, who had 11 points on 4-for-12 shooting.

No. 12 Florida Gulf Coast 80, No. 5 Missouri 70: At Stanford, Calif., China Dow scored 21 points and played stingy defense in the paint against Missouri star Sophie Cunningham, and Florida Gulf Coast pulled off an upset.

Cunningham took over on the low block to get Missouri (24-8) going and scored a season-high 35 points — most by a Tigers player in an NCAA tournament game — and made 14 of 16 free throws. But she didn't get much help.

Dow made two free throws with 1:12 left as the Eagles kept pushing until the final buzzer to run their winning streak to 11 games with a 21st victory in the last 22 games.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

West Regional roundup

Poole's late three sinks Houston

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — The unflappable freshman with swag to spare let loose a long three-pointer just as the buzzer sounded, watched it splash through the net and took off on a dead sprint around the arena.

"I saw everybody celebrating," Michigan's Jordan Poole said later, "and I always thought if I hit a shot like that, I didn't want to get tackled. So I tried to avoid everybody."

He finally gave up, allowing the sweetest of parties to truly begin.

Poole's buzzer-beater, which came after Houston squandered a chance to lock up a spot in the Midwest Regional semifinals, lifted the third-seeded Wolverines to a 64-63 victory Saturday — and left longtime coach John Beilein struggling to find the right words.

Dramatic? That's a good place to start.

"I'm just trying to appreciate the moment of what just happened," Beilein said. "When he makes that shot, I'm making sure the shot got off. I'm managing my team. I can't even look at the celebration."

"We did not play well, and credit Houston for that," he said. "Sometimes you feel, well, geez, why did we win? But I've been on the other end of those many, many times. We got a fortunate break."

That came when Devin Davis had a chance to seal the win, and the Cougars' gritty forward missed a pair of foul shots with 3.6 seconds left. The Wolverines



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Michigan guard Jordan Poole (2) is chased by forward Moritz Wagner (13) after making a three-point basket at the buzzer Saturday to beat Houston 64-63 in the second round in Wichita, Kan.

(30-7) called their final play, and Muhammad-Ali-Abdur-Rahkman found Poole on the wing.

The youngster's shot hit nothing but net.

"Sports is a great metaphor for life sometimes. It's not always fair," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said. "I thought our team deserved to win that game.

For 39 minutes, 57 seconds, I thought we were the better team. Credit their kid for hitting a big

shot. It was a big, big shot he hit."

Abdur-Rahkman and Moe Wagner scored 12 points apiece to lead Michigan.

Rob Gray scored 23 points and Davis finished with 17 for the sixth-seeded Cougars (27-8), who were trying to reach their first Sweet 16 since the last of the Phi Slama Jama teams in 1984.

No. 4 Gonzaga 90, No. 5 Ohio St. 84: At Boise, Idaho, Zach Norvell Jr. had 28 points, Rui

Hachimura added 25 and Gonzaga is headed back to the Sweet 16.

Norvell hit the late tiebreaking three-pointer against UNC-Greensboro in the opening round to help the Zags advance. The confident freshman made six of 11 from the arc against Ohio State to lead Gonzaga (32-4) to the Sweet 16 for the fourth straight season.

Keita Bates-Diop had 28 points and Kam Williams 19 for Ohio State.

Scoreboard

EAST REGIONAL Second Round Saturday, March 17 At Pittsburgh Villanova 81, Alabama 59 At Dallas Texas Tech 69, Florida 65 Sunday, March 18 At Detroit Purdue (29-6) vs. Butler (21-13) At San Diego Marshall (25-10) vs. W. Virginia (25-10) At Boston Regional Semifinals Friday, March 23 Villanova (32-4) vs. Marshall-West Virginia Purdue-Murray State winner vs. Texas Tech (26-9) Purdue-Butler winner vs. Texas Tech (26-9)	Regional Championship Sunday, March 25 Semifinal winners SOUTH REGIONAL Second Round Saturday, March 17 At Boise, Idaho Kentucky 95, Buffalo 75 At Dallas Loyola of Chicago 63, Tennessee 62 Sunday, March 18 UMBC (25-10) vs. Kansas State (23-11) At Nashville, Tenn. Cincinnati (31-4) vs. Nevada (28-7) At Atlanta Regional Semifinals Thursday, March 22 UMBC-Kansas State winner vs. Kentucky (26-10) Cincinnati-Nevada winner vs. Loyola of Chicago (30-5)
Regional Championship Saturday, March 24 Semifinal winners MIDWEST REGIONAL Second Round Saturday, March 17 At Pittsburgh Duke 87, Rhode Island 62 At Wichita, Kan. Kansas 83, Seton Hall 79 Sunday, March 18 Michigan State (30-4) vs. Syracuse (22-13) At Viejas Arena San Diego Auburn (26-7) vs. Clemson (24-9) At CenturyLink Center Omaha Omaha, Neb. Regional Semifinals Friday, March 23 Kansas (29-7) vs. Auburn/Clemson (28-5) Michigan State vs. Michigan State/Syracuse	Regional Championship Sunday, March 25 Semifinal winners WEST REGIONAL Second Round Saturday, March 17 At Boise, Idaho Gonzaga 90, Ohio State 84 At Wichita, Kan. Michigan 64, Houston 63 Sunday, March 18 North Carolina (26-10) vs. Texas A&M (21-12) At Bridgestone Arena Nashville, Tenn. Xavier (29-10) vs. Florida State (21-11) At STAPLES Center Los Angeles Regional Semifinals Thursday, March 22 Xavier-Florida State winner vs. Gonzaga (32-4) North Carolina-Texas A&M winner vs. Michigan (30-7)
Regional Championship Saturday, March 24 Semifinal winners FINAL FOUR At The Alamodome San Antonio National Semifinals Friday, March 23 South champion vs. West champion East champion vs. Midwest champion National Championship Monday, April 2 Semifinal winners	

Kentucky routs Buffalo, halts Midwest's string of upsets

BY EDIE PELLIS

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Kentucky put an end to any upset talk on its watch Saturday, getting 27 points and a near-perfect shooting game from Shai Gilgeous-Alexander in a 95-75 pull-away from 13th-seeded Buffalo.

Gilgeous-Alexander went 10-for-12 and made both of his three-point attempts to send fifth-seeded Kentucky (26-10) to the Sweet 16

for the second straight season.

Coming into the day, the tournament was still reverberating from Maryland-Baltimore County's 16 vs. 1 stunner over Virginia. Villanova and Duke both rolled early; the evening slate started with Kentucky, and the Wildcats, with their all-freshman starting lineup, trailed only once: 2-0.

It wasn't a runaway until the last 7 minutes.

Buffalo (27-9), which got here with a 21-

point blowout over Arizona, twice trimmed a double-digit lead to five midway through the second half.

Gilgeous-Alexander answered both times — once with a three-pointer to extend the lead to eight, then again a few minutes later with a three-point play that started a 12-2 run and put the game away.

Hamidou Diallo also went off — going 9-for-12 and scoring all but four of his 22 points in the second half for the Wildcats.

Again: Sister Jean's prayers answered again for Loyola-Chicago

FROM BACK PAGE

After Loyola almost lost the ball on an out-of-bounds call confirmed on replay, Custer took the inbound pass with 10 seconds left, dribbled left and then right, pulled up and let go of the winner.

The Vols' Jordan Bone got a decent look at last-gasp three, but it bounced away, and Custer threw the ball off the scoreboard high above the court as he was mobbed by teammates in the same spot that the Ramblers celebrated Ingram's dramatic winner.

"I've seen him make one, two, dribble, one-two pull-up probably a million times," said Ben Richardson, who won two high school state championships with Custer in Kansas and has been his teammate since third grade. "He makes it like a 98 percent

clip."

The Ramblers fell behind 15-6 in less than 5 minutes before the Volunteers missed their next nine shots and fell behind for the first time on Custer's three-pointer with 6 minutes left in the first half.

Admiral Schofield scored 11 of those first 15 Tennessee points but didn't score again until a three-point nearly 32 minutes later that started a rally from a 10-point deficit in the final 4 minutes by the SEC regular-season co-champions.

Tennessee coach Rick Barnes lost at American Airlines Center, home of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks, for the first time in six NCAA games. The first four wins were during his 17 seasons leading the Texas Longhorns.

"It's always a tough way to lose a basketball game, buzzer-beaters," Barnes said.

"Had the ball with a chance to tie or go ahead and we did it. They had the ball with a chance to win, and they did it."

Schmidt, a high school basketball player in San Francisco in the 1930s who leads the pregame prayer and gives the players feedback after, wasn't the only one pulling hard for Loyola.

Late-arriving fans waiting for crowd-favorite Texas Tech in the late game joined the raucous Ramblers supporters wearing maroon-and-gold scarfs and standing all most the entire game in sections across the court from their team's bench.

"It's great to get some exposure for our school and our fans," Richardson said. "And on the national stage, we know there's so many loyal fans that have come up to us, that have been fans since '63, the national championship team, and they're so proud

of us."

Aundre Jackson, who grew up in the Dallas area, led Loyola with 16 points, and Custer had 10. Schofield scored 14 for Tennessee.

Big picture: Loyola-Chicago: A special run continues and the Ramblers might not be one-year wonders. Several key players will be back, including Custer, fellow junior guard Marques Townes and freshman center Cameron Krutwig. The Ramblers probably won't have to wait another 33 years this time.

Tennessee: Letting a quick lead get away will hurt for the Vols, although the rally is a boost for a starting lineup with no seniors. It was the first NCAA trip in three seasons at Tennessee for Barnes, who took the Longhorns 16 times in 17 years.

NCAA TOURNAMENT



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

Rhode Island's E.C. Matthews hugs coach Dan Hurley after Saturday's 87-62 loss to Duke.

Blue Devils romp in win over Rams

By WILL GRAVES
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The same message comes from Mike Krzyzewski almost daily. While the Hall-of-Fame Duke coach makes an effort to mix it up when talking to his ridiculously young and ridiculously loaded team, the theme never changes.

This moment in the NCAA Tournament is precious. Don't take it for granted. Especially if it turns out to be the only one you'll get.

Marvin Bagley III and the rest of his potentially one-and-done teammates appear to be all ears. The Atlantic Coast Conference Player of the Year poured in 22 points to go with nine rebounds and the second-seeded Blue Devils overwhelmed seventh-seeded Rhode Island 87-62 on Saturday to earn the program's 26th trip to the Sweet 16.

"After seeing these last couple games, these last few days of basketball, seeing what can happen, we have an idea that this tournament anything can happen," Bagley said. "We can't look ahead. We've got to worry about now."

And the rest of the field might need to start worrying about the Blue Devils (28-7), who will play either Michigan State or Syracuse in the Midwest Regional semifinal on Omaha, Nebraska next Friday. Duke shot 57 percent (29 of 51) from the floor, finished with 20 assists and never let the Rams (26-8) in it following a 23-5 burst midway through the first half.

E.C. Matthews led Rhode Island with 21 points but the Rams looked confounded at times by Duke's much improved zone defense. A weakness during a miniswoon in late January, the Blue Devils are no longer treating defense like a chore they're forced to complete before getting the ball back in their hands.

"They played and looked like an NBA team out there," Rhode Island coach Danny Hurley said.

Pretty much. Of course, the coach is pretty good too. The victory was the 1,099th of Krzyzewski's career, breaking a tie with late Tennessee women's coach Pat Summitt for the most wins in NCAA history.

Villanova rolls past Tide

Bridges' big second half lifts top-seeded Wildcats

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jay Wright had some late-night restlessness because he could not turn off the TV as long as Virginia and UMBC were still playing. He met his Villanova team in the morning and the players at the breakfast tables were buzzing over basketball's biggest upset.

The reverberation from the 16-over-1 stunner was felt by another tourney top seed.

"There was a lot of attention with that," guard Dante DiVincenzo said. "We're a 1 seed so it was more attention for us."

In the March spotlight, Villanova showed how a No. 1 seed takes cares of business.

Mikal Bridges hit five threes, scored 23 points and helped Villanova put the field on notice that it's the team to beat with an 81-58 win over tenth-seeded Alabama on Saturday.

The Wildcats (32-4) are in the Sweet 16 for the first time since they won the 2016 national championship. Bridges, Jalen Brunson, Phil Booth — and yes, The Big Ragú — look every bit the favorite to make it two in three years.

Villanova plays Friday in Boston against the Marshall-West Virginia winner.

"My good vibes are coming from how this team's playing, how unselfishly they play," Wright said.

The sport is still buzzing from



KEITH SHAROCIC/AP

Villanova's Mikal Bridges, right, blocks a shot by Alabama's Galin Smith during the second half of Saturday's second-round game in Pittsburgh. Bridges scored 23 points in the Wildcats' 81-58 win.

top-seeded Virginia's 20-point loss to 16th-seeded UMBC on Friday night.

Alabama (20-16) failed to make it two No. 1s KO'd in less than 24 hours.

After a tense first half in a round that has given the program fits, the Wildcats hit their first six threes in the second and put on a thrashing up there among the most dominant under Wright.

Bridges, who averaged 17.9 points and played his way into a likely NBA draft lottery pick, scored 1 point and missed all five shots in the first half. He found his groove once the second half tipped. Bridges scored the first

5 points of the half and then finished a thunderous alley-oop on a pass from Booth that made it 41-27 and sent the Wildcats wildly waving their arms in celebration headed into a timeout.

DiVincenzo — the redheaded guard nicknamed "The Big Ragú" — scored all 18 of his points in the half. Villanova attempted 20 threes (made seven) out of 27 shots.

"We just had to withstand that first initial hit, and then once we got comfortable out there with each other, we started defending at a higher rate," DiVincenzo said. "I just think we were down their men."

Jayhawks hold off Seton Hall

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Udoka Azubuike had practiced once in the last 11 days because of a lingering knee injury, and the mammoth Kansas forward's three-minute stretch in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament was about as underwhelming as his herky-jerky free-throw stroke.

He managed to go 22 minutes against Seton Hall on Saturday night.

Azubuike stood toe-to-toe with the Pirates' bruising Angel Delgado, and drew enough attention on offense to spring his high-scoring guards for open looks. The result was 28-points from teammate Malik Newman, another 16 from Svi Mykhailiuk, and a gritty 83-79 victory that pushed the top-seeded Jayhawks to their third straight Sweet 16.

"If 'Duke wasn't able to come back from his injury, we don't win," coach Bill Self said.

Lagerald Vick added 13 points for Kansas (29-7), which converted every crucial play down the stretch to advance to the semifinals of the Midwest Region. Delgado finished with 24 points and 23 rebounds in a virtuoso effort for the No. 8 seed Pirates (22-11), who snapped a four-game NCAA Tournament skid in the opening round. But he was less effective when Azubuike was in the game, a matchup that often sounded like battleships colliding.

"It stinks, basically, to leave like this," Delgado said, "because we had so much expectation. We want to win every game, be the best team in the tournament."



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas center Udoka Azubuike dunks against Seton Hall during Saturday's second-round game in Wichita. The Jayhawks won 83-79.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Texas Tech guard Keenan Evans celebrates during Saturday's 69-66 win over Florida in Dallas.

Texas Tech tops Florida to advance

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

DALLAS — Keenan Evans treats every game like senior night and is doing all he can to keep playing for Texas Tech.

Next stop: Sweet 16.

"Once you get to this point, it's just like, man, I'm not ready for it to end," Evans said. "And here we are getting another week to prepare and play the game we love."

Evans scored 22 points, making the tiebreaking three-pointer with 2 1/2 minutes before his alley-oop pass on the punctuating dunk, as third-seeded Texas Tech beat Florida 69-66 on Saturday night in the NCAA Tournament.

The Red Raiders, in their second year with head coach Chris Beard, are going into the second weekend of the tournament for the first time since 2005.

"It's amazing. I feel like words can't really describe this journey with these guys," Evans said. "Coach Beard came in and said he was going to win. And after last season, it was a disappointment, he told us we were going to get to this tournament next year. We were going to make a run. And he kept his word."

While the next loss will end All-Big 12 guard Evans' career, highly-flying freshman Zhaire Smith is just getting started.

Smith had 18 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, and was on the receiving end of an alley-oop pass with 29 seconds left that punched the ticket for the Red Raiders (26-9) to go to Boston to play Purdue or Butler next Friday night in the East Region.

"He has no ceiling," Evans said of Smith.

Chris Chiozza did go the length of the court for a Florida layup with 25 seconds left before Evans lost the ball when trying to fight through a double-team after the inbound pass.

The crowd gathered the ball after a wild scramble. Egor Koulechov and KeVaughn Allen both had three-point attempts in the final 10 seconds that came up short.

Florida (21-13) fell short of the Sweet 16 — and the Elite Eight — for the first time in their last six NCAA Tournament appearances.

SPORTS



Record-setting Huskies

UConn women set mark for points » **NCAA Tournament, Page 29**

NCAA TOURNAMENT



ASHLEY LANDIS, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

The Loyola Ramblers celebrate a 63-62 win against Tennessee in the second round of the NCAA Tournament with team chaplain Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt on Saturday in Dallas. Right: Clayton Custer hits the winning three-pointer with 3.6 seconds left.

Ramblers do it again

Another buzzer-beater sends No. 11 seed Loyola-Chicago to Sweet 16

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

DALLAS — Loyola-Chicago's Sweet 16 dreams bounced on the front of the rim, lightly touched the backboard, and rattled a couple times before slipping through the net.

Another prayer answered in the waning seconds, and now Sister Jean's Ramblers are heading to Atlanta.

Clayton Custer's jumper got that friendly bounce with 3.6 seconds left, and 11th-seeded Loyola beat Tennessee 63-62 in a South Regional second-round game Satur-

day night.

Custer's winner came two days after Donte Ingram's buzzer-beating three from the March Madness logo against Miami, surely to the delight of Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, the team chaplain and occasional coach, watching from her wheelchair on a platform near the main TV cameras.

"The only thing I can say, glory to God for that one," Custer said. "The ball bounced on the rim and I got a good bounce."

The Ramblers were the long-shot story of the first round — until 16th-seed UMBC beat No. 1 Virginia to pull off the biggest upset in NCAA Tournament history. That'll

be hard for the Ramblers (30-5) to top, but they're working on it.

The Missouri Valley champions broke the school record for wins set by the 1963 NCAA championship team. The small Catholic college in the heart of Chicago will play the Cincinnati-Nevada winner in the regional semifinals Thursday in Atlanta.

"Of course," Schmidt said when asked if she'll be with the team.

No. 3 seed Tennessee (26-7) took its only lead of the second half on a three-point play by Grant Williams with 20 seconds left.

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TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Freshman Poole's last-second three lifts Michigan over Houston » **Page 30**

No. 1 Villanova, No. 2 Duke cruise into third round » **Page 31**

